

# Episode 234 - Cicero's OTNOTG - 09 - Dealing With Marcus Aurelius And The Canonical Basis For the Epicurean View Of Divinity

Post by "Little Rocker" of June 30, 2024 at 5:51 PM

[Quote from Bryan](#)

Our measure of truth is pre-cognitive sensation.

Apologies if this is getting laborious, but I guess I'm starting to think this is actually what we disagree about. First, I suspect Epicurus thinks that sensation of external objects includes cognitive content as part of a package deal.

See DL 10.49: the outlines "enter us [from the objects], entering the vision **or** the intellect **according to the size and fit** [of the effluences]...And whatever presentation we receive by a form of application, **whether by the intellect or** the sense organs....this is the shape of the solid object." trans. Inwood and Gerson.

So in other words, I'm not sure sensation of the external world can be pre-cognitive because sensation itself contains cognitive content. But perhaps by 'pre-cognitive' you're taking 'cognitive' to involve the processing of or reflection on the contents of intellect--making inferences, etc.

Even then, though, it doesn't seem to me that Epicurus considers sensation (including its associated cognitive content) the only measure of truth, though it initiates inquiry and can constrain what's true. It seems to me that Epicurus thinks opinions can be true or false, and not all opinions are about sensations. Sensations don't have to confirm an opinion for the opinion to count as true. They just can't rule it out (DL 10. 51).