

Prolepsis / Anticipations As Epicurus' Answer to the MENO Problem

Post by “Pacatus” of November 1, 2024 at 8:19 PM

[Don](#) :

I don't think that one has to go to some supernatural/mystical “woo” to recognize that there are hard questions of consciousness - which is probably worth a thread of its own. For example: **intentionality**. Whence my actual *intention* to write these words, with the notion that I am consciously attempting to convey some meaning? And this also goes to that fraught question of so-called “free will” (a phrase I have come to dislike, and for which I would offer alternatives such as “intentional - if constrained - agency”). Is such intentionality a kind of epiphenomenon? Or just an illusion?

That is probably all worth a thread of its own. And there have been extended discussions on here of “free will.”

But, as [Cassius](#) argues (I think), such questions are secondary (even if profoundly interesting) to how I can (as a layperson) draw on Epicurean philosophy to live my life. In that framework, I *assume* intentionality and agency because (to draw on Robert Parker's *Spenser* detective character 😊) the alternative doesn't get me anywhere.

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Vatican Saying 9 comes to mind: “Necessity is an evil, but [there is no necessity to live under the control of necessity.](#)”