

Music Theory And Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Hiram" of May 28, 2019 at 3:27 PM

Interesting discussion.

I'm curious to know what others think (since Lucretius in DRN often acts as an anthropologist and looks at primitive humans, anticipating that their behavior initiated as a natural response to the environment and then evolved via culture / rational management by people) about an observation I've made for many years:

In nature documentaries, when monkeys and other species engage in musical expressions (calls and call and response behavior), it's typically TERRITORIAL, or for protection from dangers (also in a way an expression of social and territorial instinct) and to this day a lot of music in our species is also territorial or patriotic or enhances a sense of tribal identity. Singing together is the ultimate "cultural machine" to create a collective psyche. People sometimes go to churches / temples just for the music, and this gives them a sense of community.

And so it has always seemed to me that music has always played a role in consolidating social units, and appeals to the social / tribal instinct.

This does not exclude romantic / pair-bonding and other uses of music.

I don't remember if Lucretius mentions music and how it originated, but I do know that he mentions music / dancing in his portion on neural pathways where he talks about habituation

<https://theautarkist.wordpress.com/2016/06/20/hap...e-rerum-natura/>