

Music Theory And Epicurean Philosophy

Post by “Hiram” of May 28, 2019 at 4:13 PM

Also, this ties to Polystratus' claim that the noble and the vile and pleasure / aversion are REAL natural phenomena even if subjective, and that they exist as relational properties of bodies.

I say this because watching a documentary about primate evolution, I learned that the universally REPULSIVE reaction humans have to the sound of FINGER NAILS ON CHALKBOARD has been traced back to the sound of certain monkeys who warn each other of danger. Like other triggers for fight-or-flight instinct, this sound immediately awakens all the tribe members in some monkey troops and is used to warn of predators.

So the theory is that our repulsion to this is due to a VERY ANCIENT inherited ancestral memory from our remote past as early primates.

And if so, this means that at least CERTAIN sound vibrations, tones or rhythms have this property and other properties that are NATURAL, not cultural, and then via culture we have rationally and consciously built on these initial natural drives to develop musical expressions, among other behaviors.

On the relationship between pleasure and rhythm / anticipation of sounds and repetition, we have of course Marian Diamond's study on chanting and its slowing the heart rate and blood pressure.