

John Masson - "The Atomic Theory of Epicurus"

Post by "Cassius" of March 14, 2025 at 6:17 PM

The discussion of teleology that previously was here has been split off into a separate thread:

Thread

[Epicurean Views of "Teleology"](#)

Admin Edit: This thread was split off from a discussion of a book by John Masson on atomism

[...]

Here's a sentiment I can fully endorse, and it might reveal a weakness of our presentation here at the forum. We need to find a way to clearly address Aristotle's teleology! If Lucretius' objection to what DeWitt calls "Purposiveness" in Nature is not of first-tier importance, as are those doctrines in the image below, then it certainly merits a place in any proposed second-tier list of doctrines.

[...]

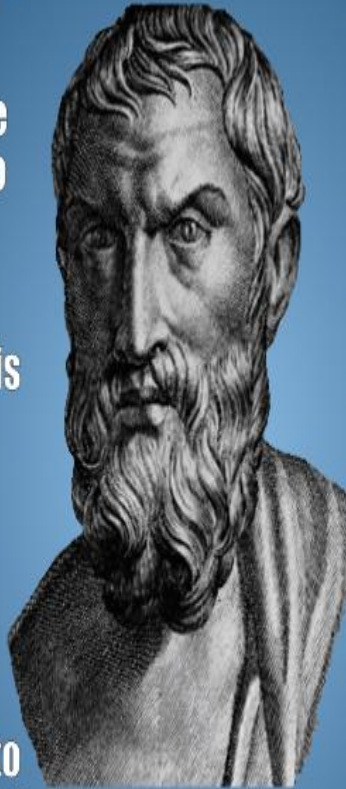
Nothing can be created from nothing.

The universe is infinite and eternal and has no gods over it.

The nature of gods contains nothing that is inconsistent with incorruption and blessedness.

Death is nothing to us.

There is no necessity to live under the control of necessity.



He who says "Nothing can be known" knows nothing.

All sensations are "true."

Virtue is not absolute or an end in itself - all good and evil consists in sensation.

Pleasure is the guide of life.

By "Pleasure" we mean all experience that is not painful.

Life is desirable, but unlimited time contains no greater pleasure than limited time.



Joshua

March 13, 2025 at 8:56 PM