

The Use of Negation in Epicurean Philosophy Concepts

Post by “Rolf” of April 16, 2025 at 5:54 AM

In order to illustrate this use of language, I’ve rewritten the contentious portion of Menoeceus 131 as if it regarded cleanliness rather than pleasure:

When, therefore, we maintain that cleanliness is the end, we do not mean the cleanliness of lazy teenagers — those who mask grime with body spray or shove messes under the bed — as is supposed by some who are either ignorant or disagree with us or do not understand, but rather the absence of filth on the body and of clutter in the home — in other words, spotlessness.

Humorous as this may be, I hope it is helpful in pointing out the effect of linguistic negation. 😄