

The Use of Negation in Epicurean Philosophy Concepts

Post by "Bryan" of April 20, 2025 at 10:21 AM

Definitions set boundaries around particular characteristics.

From a certain angle, definitions (or "limits,") *can only* say what something is not -- and it is "examples" that say what something is.

Consider an ancient scholiast on Dionysius Thrax's Τέχνη Γραμματική (The Art of Grammar):

"And Epíkouros - although he used **examples (αἱ ὑπογραφαί)** all the time - he shows that **limits (οἱ ὅροι)** are more valuable, [because he used] limits instead of examples in his work of his natural philosophy lecture: while dividing everything into atom and void by using limits - and while saying that an atom is a solid body having no share of interposition with the void. Void is an intangible nature, that is, untouchable."