

Episode 277 - TD07 - Platonism Says This World Is Darkness But The Next World Is Light - Epicurus Disagrees!

Post by “Patrikios” of April 27, 2025 at 10:31 AM

In this Episode 277, Cicero appears to make wild leaps, that just by contemplating the beauty of nature, we are supposed to conclude all these supernatural attributions accrue to a manipulative, punitive, personified deity.

“Thus, though you see not the soul of man, as you see not the Deity, yet, as by the contemplation of his works you are led to acknowledge a God, so you must own the divine power of the soul, from its remembering things, from its invention, from the quickness of its motion, and from all the beauty of virtue. Where, then, is it seated, you will say?”

From reading DeWitt, and Epicurus’ letters, it appears that Epicurus was describing the ‘soul’ as what we know today as our nervous system. Our nervous system includes the brain and nerve cells that run throughout our body carrying both thought-initiated commands to move certain muscles, as well as carrying the signals from our 5 senses.

“Of the Twelve Principles the most important was the third: "The universe consists of atoms and void." Since the void is incapable either of delivering or receiving a stimulus, it followed that the **soul**, which is capable both of stimulating and being stimulated, must be corporeal by nature, composed of atoms.” [DeWitt: Epicurus & His Philosophy, p6]