

Sunday June 22 - Topic: Prolepsis

Post by "TauPhi" of June 21, 2025 at 6:52 AM

I probably won't be able to join this Sunday but in case prolepsis is being discussed, I think this can help new people to understand the idea of Epicurean prolepsis. There's a book called '*Thinking, Fast and Slow*' by Daniel Kahneman. **Disclaimer:** I haven't read the book and I don't know how scientifically sound the book is. System 1 presented in the book, however, is pretty close to describing what Epicurus might have in mind with his prolepsis description. Maybe it's something worth talking about.

Here are relevant excerpts from Wikipedia:

Quote

The book's main thesis is a differentiation between two modes of [thought](#): "System 1" is fast, [instinctive](#) and [emotional](#); "System 2" is slower, more [deliberative](#), and more [logical](#).

Quote

In the book's first section, Kahneman describes two different ways the brain forms thoughts:

- **System 1:** Fast, automatic, frequent, emotional, stereotypic, unconscious. Examples (in order of complexity) of things system 1 can do:
 - determine that an object is at a greater distance than another
 - localize the source of a specific sound
 - complete the phrase "war and ..."
 - display disgust when seeing a gruesome image
 - solve $2 + 2 = ?$
 - read text on a billboard
 - drive a car on an empty road
 - think of a good chess move (if you're a chess master)
 - understand simple sentences
- **System 2:** Slow, effortful, infrequent, logical, calculating, conscious. Examples of things system 2 can do:
 - prepare yourself for the start of a sprint
 - direct your attention towards the clowns at the circus
 - direct your attention towards someone at a loud party

- look for the woman with the grey hair
- try to recognize a sound
- sustain a faster-than-normal walking rate
- determine the appropriateness of a particular behavior in a social setting
- count the number of A's in a certain text
- give someone your telephone number
- park into a tight parking space
- determine the price/quality ratio of two washing machines
- determine the validity of a complex logical reasoning
- solve 17×24