

# Sunday June 22 - Topic: Prolepsis

Post by "Don" of June 21, 2025 at 9:30 AM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

I am all for discussing modern validations of Epicurean theory too, but the reason for my different emphasis is to get people on board with the philosophical issues that Epicurus was dealing with so we can see why he thought this issue was important.

That's very helpful and helps me understand your position better. I want to address the two different aspects of that paragraph.

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

modern validations of Epicurean theory

While I find it intriguing when modern science parallels ancient Epicurean philosophy, I'm very reluctant to say that modern science "validates" Epicurean theory. When modern findings coincide with ancient theory, it's important to remember the findings and theory were arrived at by very different methods. Maybe Epicurus and the ancient Epicureans intuitively arrived at a theory that sounds like modern science. My post above talking about the predictive model of cognition paralleling Epicurean prolepsis is a good example. I find it intriguing but I am not under the mistaken impression that Epicurus had some kind of prescient insight into modern methods of cognitive science. That's not my purpose. Epicurus came to his ideas from what Einstein called "[thought experiments](#)." So, "validate" isn't quite what I'd use. That word goes further than I would go, but I wanted to at least get this out there.

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

why he thought this issue was important

Now this I completely endorse. By looking for natural - one can say scientific in the modern sense - explanations, we reinforce the complete lack of any reason to look for supernatural explanations. That's the "spirit" of Epicurean philosophy with relation to modern science from my perspective.