

Epicurus' Prolepsis vs Heraclitus' Flux

Post by “DaveT” of July 10, 2025 at 1:47 PM

Allow me a respectful comment on this thread. I think it is not helpful to compare and contrast the physical world hypotheses of the various ancient thinkers with our complex modern science of physics. Sometimes, an ancient thinker, by a fortunate coincidence, deduced and sensed a scientific principle later proven true by modern science. The fact that they hit on something that has now been proven to be true is a fortunate coincidence, does not diminish the power of their thinking, nor does it confirm who was correct or incorrect in their deductive powers about the physical world. In my view, Epicurus is worthy of consideration not as a soothsayer, but as a logician who bucked the tide of ancient metaphysics and religion, and developed a doctrine that many found to be a fulfilling lifestyle. As Inwood and Gerson write in *The Epicurus Reader*, The Four Point Cure (via Philodemus' reporting) is: Don't fear God, Don't worry about death; What is good is easy to get, and What is terrible is easy to endure.