

Epicurus' Response to the "Idleness" Argument

Post by "Cassius" of April 9, 2026 at 8:44 AM

Logical Fatalism / the Idle Argument (Argos Logos)

Related to the above, the Idle Argument ran: "If it is fated that you recover from this illness, you will recover whether you call a doctor or not; if it is fated that you do not recover, you will not recover whether you call a doctor or not; therefore calling a doctor is pointless." Epicurus attacked this as a practical reductio — the argument destroys the meaningfulness of deliberation and action, which are attested facts of experience. The atomic swerve was in part a physical mechanism designed to block precisely this kind of fatalistic conclusion.

Need references for this!