

Episode 332 - EATAQ 14 - The Stoic Failure To Grasp That Judgment Never Happens In The Senses

Post by "Cassius" of May 4, 2026 at 3:16 PM

Notes while editing this episode:

Around the 18:00 Minute mark Joshua repeats the Epicurean position that "*Judgment never happens in the senses. Judgment happens in the mind.*"

This is a position on which I think most all of our regulars here on EpicureanFriends.com have come to agree. The real explanation of "[all sensations are true](#)" is that the senses report *without opinion of their own*, so the senses are NEVER true or false in terms of stating a true or false opinion. All sensations are "true" in that they are reported 'truly' in the sense of "honestly" reflecting what they receive without bias or prejudice or any opinion of their own whatsoever.

In this and the next several episodes, we are taking up the Stoic approach to knowledge to see how it differs from Epicurus. We'll pay special attention to the issue Joshua raises, because it sounds like the Stoics came to maintain that if you practice long enough and adjust the light and change your perspective and get close enough to something, then the senses are able to deliver to you what counts as graspable truth. We'll want to examine very closely whether Epicurus would agree with that or not, because I think the quote from Joshua answers the question clearly.

Pursuing this issue will help us understand why the Academic Sceptics were so persuasive and successful in demolishing the Stoic view of knowledge. And this issue will also help us see how the Academic Sceptic argument fails against Epicurus.

This episode will be released later this week. Any of our participants who have spent any time in investigating this in the past are welcome to comment in the thread as we pursue this question.