

Did Epicurus Create a Finished Product?

Post by "Cassius" of August 4, 2019 at 7:54 PM

I would think certainly in the realm of scientific observation he would have understood that better data would mean choosing from options that at that time seemed possible. So no doubt he would have expected the scientific understanding to advance.

In ethics he really did not derive final "rules" anyway - that would have violated the underlying premise that there aren't any absolute rules.

In epistemology also he described how to use faculties without reaching conclusions on what the faculties would reveal, since circumstances change. This area seems to be the one where according to DL and maybe Cicero the later Epicureans did improvise, but I think as best I can tell the improvisations were harmful and maybe disastrous.

The two areas of divergence I remember as best documented are where Cicero says some Epicureans tried to defend pleasure be "abstruse reasoning" or some such, plus in DL where he says that the "Epicureans generally" accepted a fourth leg of the canon. Both of those seem to me to be attempts to compromise with dialectical logic, which is a road to ruin because you give up the original high ground that logic is dependant on the senses.