

Catherine Wilson interviewed by Michael Shermer

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Sure, Cassius-- proof-texting is applied to the Bible but also to the kind of examination and discussion of documents that we are doing. It is when someone takes a quote out of context of the whole. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prooftext>

I don't actually agree that there is more than one overall way to interpret the high level view-- every mistake I have seen violates the most basic facts about reality, and generally even the people like Hiram who develop conflicting opinions don't disagree about the high level view, so far as I can see.

Hiram and Wilson agree there is only material reality, for instance-- no ideal realm, no concept-land. Well, the features of this strictly material reality can only support the conclusion that there can't be absolute morality, and that only subjective experience is possible. Those are not separate ideas-- they are inescapable consequences of reality. Epicurus did not list any part of the Canon that isn't subjective, and he clearly said there was no absolute morality. This is not vague. But it's also the only possible conclusion c/w physics.

But then people like Hiram proceed to violate those truths, while trying to pretend they are not. That is not a different understanding of Epicurus. It is simply incompatible with Epicurean Philosophy, and incompatible with reality.

Every error I have seen is similar. Conclusions drawn from one quote must always be looked at in light of the nature of reality. DeWitt did a great job with this, but anyone who fully grasps the basics of material reality and the implications of it should be immediately be able to tell when mistakes are made, *****_even without having read Epicurus_*****. That's a bold statement, right? I believe it is true.

I can say it because I understand the full implications of the science. So did Epicurus and that is why he doesn't make that kind of error. If he had, we would need to say he was wrong. He would have violated his own philosophy.