

Feedback From A User

Post by "Lee" of January 18, 2020 at 11:27 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

The point that I think is important to realize is that "Bondage, Liberty, Riches, Poverty, War, Concord, or the like," are not any less real to us because they are not properties of the atoms themselves. It's at the "body/combination" level that we experience life, which is what us ultimately important to us, and it should not be a problem for us to understand how the two levels interrelate. The reason I think it IS a problem for most of us is our corruption through religion that we have become acclimated to believe that nothing is really important unless it has some kind of stamp of "divine eternal god-given existence" which is a totally false and nonsensical frame of analysis:

Hello Cassius. I see the point and agree with you that I carry a bias from years of education (religious and otherwise) which taught the existence of an eternal and immaterial world of ideas. I am beginning to see how emergent properties of atomic combinations and preconceptions could account for our experience and provide a more familiar and plausible description of our cognitive experience.

The intellectual journey I am traveling is such a surprise. I started at the state university as a student of modern empirical science and a staunch materialist. Then I attended a liberal arts college which emphasized philosophy and the tradition of immaterial ideas about which I then became convinced. Now I am circling back around and reconsidering the merits of the materialist argument.

I appreciate that you took the time to include the passages from Lucretius. Although I have read his work a couple of times over the last 25 years, I didn't fully grasp the complexity and sufficiently of those passages until you pointed them out to read more carefully.

I see now that the passing of time or the existence of the Trojan war can be considered "events of body" without the need for them to exist in an eternal and immaterial plane.

Here's another question that has been nagging me: how can The Swerve account for our volition? If all of reality is atoms and void it is difficult to understand how I seem to be able to change my mind at will? If my thinking is subject to the swerve of the atoms, how is it that I seem to be controlling my choices? Is this an illusion of choice? Am I somehow controlling the movement of atoms when I choose?