

Proposition: It is Not Primarily the "Science" of Epicurus That Should Impress Us, But Rather The "Perspective" On Science, Or, If You Will, The "Limit" On Science, That Is His Major Achievement.

Post by "Cassius" of February 26, 2020 at 5:40 AM

[Quote from Eugenios](#)

I have to believe that Epicurus would have welcomed perceptions via scientific instruments to get at accurate pictures of what is real to combat supernatural thinking.

Absolutely no question - I accept this as a certainty. It is ridiculous to think that Epicurus was or would be against new technologies for gathering of more accurate information, but that comes up on occasion as part of the contention that Epicurus was against "education."

This is an area where I think DeWitt is especially perceptive in pointing out that Epicurus was not against "education in general" but particular **types** of study that are ultimately dead ends.

Quote

You are pleased to think him uneducated. The reason is that he refused to consider any education worth the name that did not help to school us in happiness. Was he to spend his time, as you encourage Triarius and me to do, in perusing poets, who give us nothing solid and useful, but merely childish amusement? Was he to occupy himself like Plato with music and geometry, arithmetic and astronomy, which starting from false premises cannot be true, and which moreover if they were true would contribute nothing to make our lives pleasanter and therefore better? Was he, I say, to study arts like these, and neglect the master art, so difficult and correspondingly so fruitful, the art of living?

No! Epicurus was not uneducated: the real philistines are those who ask us to go on studying till old age the subjects that we ought to be ashamed not to have learnt in boyhood.

[\(Torquatus / On Ends\)](#)