

Reducing "Tranquilism" to its Absurd Conclusion

Post by "Godfrey" of March 7, 2020 at 12:15 AM

Yesterday I gave George Santayana's Lucretius essay a quick read. (<http://monadnock.net/santayana/lucretius.html>)

It had a few good observations, but was quite hostile toward Epicurus. It occurs to me that it's a great example of the conclusions one might reach if considering EP to be "tranquilism". Maybe the most pertinent quote is:

"Epicurus had been a pure and tender moralist, but pusillanimous. He was so afraid of hurting and of being hurt, so afraid of running risks or tempting fortune, that he wished to prove that human life was a brief business, not subject to any great transformations, nor capable of any great achievements".

The essay is full of similar drivel. Reading the essay makes me suspect that Santayana hadn't the courage to live in the world which Epicurus so aptly described. But I know nothing more of Santayana.