

Tetrapharmakos: Alternate Translations and Content of PHerc. 1005 from Reviews

Post by “Cassius” of March 20, 2020 at 6:58 AM

Eugenios I don't profess to have the answers to these questions myself, so that is why I so very much appreciate your interest in asking them too!

My concern has been that it is very easy to quote a commentator's opinion as established fact, when the evidence is so slender that even the most rigorously honest of them are working with material that requires them to speculate based on what they think SHOULD be in the text, given their prior understanding of Epicurus. But that is a perfect brew for perpetuating and extending error if the suppositions are wrong, so we must do all we can to guard against it.

I am sure the commentators would say that this is exactly what they have done, but I think the only way to get at the most likely truth is for us to drop back to the most fundamental of the Epicurean physics principles about the nature of the universe and constantly test our presumptions against them for consistency.

And that is hard for us, seeing that our religious/ "idealist" cultures have so strongly embraced opinions that appear to be in strong conflict with the views of an atomist universe.

But I think it is possible and there is much to be gained in doing so!