

References to Epicurus' Attitude Toward The "Place of the Sciences And Liberal Arts"

Post by "Don" of July 27, 2020 at 1:16 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Don, I wonder if you have the same concern about this as your earlier concern?

Sort of. (Oh, that's helpful, right?) 😊

The more I read the current scholarship (and there seems to be a WIDE spectrum of thoughts) on prolepses, there definitely seems to be a language component. So, a "prolepsis of truth" seems to me to maybe simply be the faculty to recognize a true vs false statement in some way.

My problem, consternation, uneasiness comes in when we have statements like:

1. That is a round tower.
2. God saved me from the accident.

Those are not equivalent statements when it comes to determining their being true vs. false.

(1) can be resolved from observation and doesn't really need a prolepsis of "truth" because our senses will resolve whether it's true.

(2) cannot be resolved by observation. That statement is connected to somebody's internal/personal Truth (capital T) and, so, again I don't think it falls under a prolepsis because it would be innate. That seems more like a case of holding an empty or incorrect opinion.

There also seems to be some scholarship that tries to make the prolepsis of the divine (That they are blessed, immortal, etc.) a special case, but I don't think - personally - that Epicurus would create a category - prolepsis - to cover only one case. And if the prolepsis about the gods is innate, I would *think* that all prolepses are innate and pre-rational, especially if they're part of the Canon and used in determining a correct version of reality.