

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

Post by "Cassius" of July 27, 2020 at 1:38 PM

Don I expected that you would not yet be satisfied. Have you yet gotten to the chapter in DeWitt where he talks about his view of anticipations?

We do probably have two very separate issues here:

- (1) The practical meaning/definition/view of "truth"
- (2) The nature and use of "anticipations."

My current thought is that I go very much along the lines of Godfrey's quote from "A Few Days In Athens" as to "truth," and as to anticipations, I am pretty much with DeWitt but with a focus on anticipations being a "faculty" (like sight) which makes it critical to distinguish the faculty from any single "perception" that arises from the faculty.

I think it is very very easy to equate an anticipation with a particular conclusion, and I think that is exactly what Bailey and probably Tsouna are doing, and I think they are wrong about that. I think that anticipations are distinct perceptions (just like from 5 senses and feelings) from which we draw opinions, but blurring the line between the perception and our opinion or conclusion is a major error.

Even DeWitt seems to me to be too close to equating an anticipation with a particular opinion, but if you read him closely enough I don't think he really goes over the line. For example when we talk about having an anticipation of justice, I don't think that means that our particular anticipation equates to a conclusion that a particular situation is just or unjust. My view is that it's a faculty that allows us to recognize that what is being observed is something that our minds are disposed to file under a category that "justice," but that all the conclusions about whether the particular situation is just or unjust are in the realm of opinion rather than in the realm of the anticipation faculty. Where I think DeWitt is most correct in ridiculing the idea that anticipations allow us to identify cows or horses. I think that process, which is featured in Diogenes Laertius, is something else (probably "conceptual reasoning"), not a description of the faculty of anticipations.