

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

Post by "Cassius" of July 27, 2020 at 9:06 PM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

I keep leaning toward the notion that they function together as a process, but I may be bringing that to it from my personal bias.

... Or else you are mind-melding with Norman DeWitt, because I think that's his position too 😊
Godfrey you've read DeWitt's chapter on anticipations? He has a very involved discussion of this functioning that I can't say I agree with 100% but makes a lot of sense and definitely ought to be part of your reading as you think about this

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

But in thinking of it in terms of a process, the prolepses or feelings aren't activated without a stimulus.

I think that is probably correct too. That steps us closer toward the subject that none of us (to my knowledge) have ever really dived into -- the "images" which are distinct and not received through the sight - which seem to be a MUCH more important part of all these processes than most people talk about much nowadays. Don't let me get us off too far on that tangent, but in the context of when stimuli are involved, remember this passage from Cicero to Cassius:

Quote

For it somehow happens, that whenever I write anything to you, you seem to be at my very elbow; and that, not by way of visions of images, as your new friends term them, who believe that even mental visions are conjured up by what [Caius](#) calls spectres (for let me remind you that Caius the [Insubrian](#), an [Epicurean](#), who died lately, gives the name of spectres to what the famous [Gargettian](#) [Epicurus], and long before that [Democritus](#), called images).

2 But, even supposing that the eye can be struck by these spectres because they run up against it quite of their own accord, how the mind can be so struck is more than I can see. It will be your duty to explain to me, when you arrive here safe and sound, whether the spectre of you is at my command to come up as soon as the whim has taken me to think about you - and not only about you, who always occupy my inmost heart, but suppose I begin thinking about the Isle of [Britain](#), will the image of that wing

its way to my consciousness?

<http://www.attalus.org/translate/cassius.html>