

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

Post by "Don" of July 27, 2020 at 11:29 PM

Some great points to consider, [Godfrey](#) and [Cassius](#) . Jumping off from your points, here is what I'm beginning to formulate about the prolepses:

- The Canon has three parts and those need to be pre-rational and they react to incoming stimuli. As [Godfrey](#) said **"the prolepses or feelings aren't activated without a stimulus."** I would add, by definition, the Sensations as well.
- It seems to me that it would make sense if the Sensations registered physical stimuli: light, sound, touch, taste, odors; the Prolepses "registered" abstract stimuli: justice (how do we sense fairness?), divinity (how do we sense awe?), language (how do we sense meaning?), etc. Okay, I need to flesh that out but later. But these are inborn faculties that need only honing in humans and are present in rudimentary form in animals. Then both these faculties feed into the Feelings to register pleasure or pain. Only afterward our memory and reasoning kick in to give us information about those concepts and sensations.
- One question I'm rolling in my mind came with [Godfrey](#) saying: **"seeing a beautiful sunset, burning your hand on the stove."** I think these are two different circumstances. The latter is just the nociceptors directly registering pain. The Sensations register heat > Feeling of Pain > later reason kicks in (How bad did I burn myself? Will it scar? Do I need to go to the doctor?) The sunset seems to be registering something else. I think it can't be a simple registering of sight. I think it may be a Prolepsis but of what? Consider too the similar feeling when you're taking in a vast Vista (my go to is my first view across Yosemite Valley. Breath-taking awe is my only description). It's more than just registering the light coming into your eyes. I would contend there's a prolepsis of awe or something at work before the Feeling of pleasure kicks in.
- [Godfrey](#) also mentioned **"So we determine a concept of justice not necessarily from a single use of the Canon but through multiple exposures to situations that involve justice and stimulate resultant feelings of pleasure or pain."** I would say that we recognize fair and just actions from a *very* young age (from research I've seen) and even animals have a rudimentary prolepsis of justice. The prolepsis stimulates pleasurable feelings and so we are attracted to people and situations which are just. The multiple exposures simply reinforce our intuition and begin to acculturate us to our specific culture's laws and justice. When that culture's laws conflict with our prolepsis and they don't keep people from harming or being harmed, we see them as injustice. That intuition is the prolepsis, I believe.

I need to think and read more but that gets thinking out there in summary for review.