

Epicurean substitute for prayer

Post by "Cassius" of August 26, 2020 at 8:04 PM

I ran out of time earlier to play with this but I will do that now:

Strodach:

"24. If you summarily rule out any single sensation

and do not make a distinction between the element of belief that is superimposed on a percept that awaits verification

and what is actually present in sensation or in the feelings or some percept of the mind itself,

you will cast doubt on all other sensations by your unfounded interpretation and consequently abandon all the criteria of truth.

Bailey:

24. If you reject any single sensation,

and fail to distinguish between the conclusion of opinion, as to the appearance awaiting confirmation,

and that which is actually given by the sensation or feeling, or each intuitive apprehension of the mind,

you will confound all other sensations, as well, with the same groundless opinion, so that you will reject every standard of judgment.

Paraphrase:

24 If you reject any evidence provided by your senses

and if you fail to distinguish between those opinions of yours which require additional evidence before considering them to be confirmed,

and those opinions which are already confirmed through the evidence of the senses, anticipations, and feelings

then you will confuse together that which is false and that which is true, and you will lose confidence in your faculties which are your only standard of truth

Simplification:

If you fail to consider the evidence provided by your faculties [your senses, anticipations, and feelings]

and if you fail to keep separate in your mind those things about which you have enough evidence to be confident, from those things about which you don't have enough evidence to be sure

then by doing so you are giving up your confidence in your faculties, which provide your only ability to judge between that which is true and that which is not.

On the other hand, in cases of interpreted data, if you accept as true those that need verification as well as those that do not,

you will still be in error, since the whole question at issue in every judgment of what is true or not true will be left intact."

And if among the mental images created by your opinion you affirm both that which awaits confirmation, and that which does not,

you will not escape error, since you will have preserved the whole cause of doubt in every judgment between what is right and what is wrong.

And if among the opinions you have reached you affirm as true both that which needs further confirmation and that which is already confirmed,

Then you will inevitably fall into error, since you will have decided that you are not able to judge between what is true and that which is not true.

And if you consider to be equally true not only those things for which you have ample evidence, but also those things for which you need more evidence,

Then you will make mistakes at every turn, because you will have given up on the faculties given you by Nature, which are your only guide to truth.