

# Dr. Frans de Waal, Primatologist

Post by "Cassius" of March 2, 2023 at 2:12 AM

And it is interesting to me too that both Diogenes of Oinoanda and Diogenes Laertius have a passage that says something to the effect that "no one would ever seek what he cannot find."

I see that as a hint that anticipations are what put us "on the hunt" for something in the first place.

Diogenes of Oinoanda Fragment 5 -

"For, when they assert that things are inapprehensible, what else are they saying than that there is no need for us to pursue natural science? After all, who will choose to seek what he can never find?"

Diogenes Laertius:

"By preconception they mean a sort of apprehension or a right opinion or notion, or universal idea stored in the mind; that is, a recollection of an external object often presented, e.g. Such and such a thing is a man: for no sooner is the word "man" uttered than we think of his shape by an act of preconception, in which the senses take the lead. Thus, the object primarily denoted by every term is then plain and clear. And we should never have started an investigation, unless we had known what it was that we were in search of."

And we could probably fit also within this observation the assertion by Lucretius that the gods could not have created the universe because they would have had no pattern for something that had not previously existed i.e., previously existed at least as an anticipation in their minds.