

Pros and Cons Of Considering Epicurean Philosophy To Be A "Religion"

Post by "Peter Konstans" of March 20, 2024 at 12:23 PM

A particular cosmos, is only a temporary agglomeration of atoms, and it is only one of an infinite number of such cosmoi, which come into existence and then dissolve away. So time and space experience individual periods of birth and death as each cosmos comes and goes but this cycle extends to infinity.

Atoms themselves were forged in stellar explosions but where exactly the raw physical energy that set the universe alight ultimately comes from is unknown. Since the universe can't have just 'popped up' as the late Hawkings believed we must assume that it actually has divine roots.

But just like Lucretius we must rule out the notion that the universe was designed like a machine because our scientific knowledge of its nature is enough to show us conclusively that there is no deliberate fabrication process taking place. What we observe is a discharge of energy and then we see the universe harvesting this energy and arranging itself in a random evolutionary manner.

We must then suppose that the universes emanate from the energies of divine entities that dwell in a realm beyond time and space that we cannot observe.

Since we can't imagine blessed immortal beings creating and using tools, the universes couldn't have been made to serve a strict utilitarian purpose like watches. Instead, they could be something more akin to a work of art than a tool. They could represent a sort of spiritual or contemplative activity by the gods with the purpose of imitating the platonic One, the theoretical ineffable principle of reality, inaccessible even to the gods.

Just as the Epicureans prayed to the gods not to request favors but to contemplate them and receive some of their divine essence, it can be assumed that the gods contemplate the One and that this contemplation results in a burst of creative energy that perpetually generates finite universes.