

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

Post by "Bryan" of March 24, 2024 at 11:25 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

There's obviously some matter in that space between worlds but not enough to have a world, otherwise the gods would be *in a cosmos*.

My view is there is an infinite amount of matter in the universe and an infinite amount of matter between worlds, while there is a finite amount of matter within worlds.

Aetius, Placita -- Text and translation by Jaap Mansfeld and David Runia:

(1.5.4) ""Metrodorus,* the teacher of Epicurus says that it is equally absurd that a single stalk should have sprung up on a large plain and that a single cosmos should have done the same in the Infinite. That the kosmoi are infinite in their multiplicity is clear from the fact that the causes are infinite in number. For if the cosmos is limited, while all the causes from which the cosmos originated are infinitely many, then necessarily the kosmoi are infinitely many. After all, where the causes are without limit, there the products [or: effects] are infinite in number or without limit also. These causes are either the atoms or the elements."

*Metrodorus of Chios, not Metrodorus of Lampsacus

(1.7.25) "Epicurus says that the gods are human in form and are all observable by reason only because of the fine particles of which the nature of their images consists. The same philosopher says there are four other classes of natures that are indestructible: the indivisibles, the void, the infinite, and the similarities; these natures are called homoiomereiai (things with like parts) and elements."

(2.2.5) "Epicurus, however, says that it is possible that the kosmoi are like a ball, but that it is possible that they make use of other shapes as well."