

# What Determines That Which Is Possible And That Which is Impossible?

Post by “waterholic” of May 13, 2024 at 7:16 AM

[Quote from Don](#)

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To be fair, in the same section Philodemus justifies the small sun theory (I just had to make that disclosure).

On the size of the sun, check out Gellar-Goad's chapter in "Epicurus in Rome" (open access)

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/epicurus-in-rome/lucretius-on-the-size-of-the-sun/9B9D08457AB2AE45B44845464818346A#>

"The assertion that the sun is the size it appears became an Epicurean shibboleth, so to speak – a statement prompting reactions that distinguish Epicureans from non-Epicureans, the cognoscenti from the ignoramuses." - this passage scares me.

We have two explanations: 1) there was a deeper meaning in the statement that the sun is as small as it appears, 2) there was a mistake made.

It shouldn't be hard to accept that in an otherwise remarkable body of knowledge there are mistakes and misunderstandings. There is also a high probability of misintepretation given the chasm of time and language. The sun is big. Probably much bigger than Epicurus thought. He wasn't infallible. He didn't have to be.