

New Article Attacking Epicurean Physics: "Science Versus the Oldest Anti-Intelligent Design Argument "

Post by "Cassius" of May 13, 2024 at 1:55 PM

My first reaction to this new article is that the view ascribed to Epicurus ("Since the universe is infinite, there are enough opportunities for every possible arrangement of atoms to occur eventually, even the most unlikely. Our world, and the life on it, is one of those unlikely (but eventually inevitable) arrangements.") is not what Epicurus really said. That quoted sentence does include the word "possible," but I don't gather that he is using "possible" in the same way as did Epicurus or Lucretius.

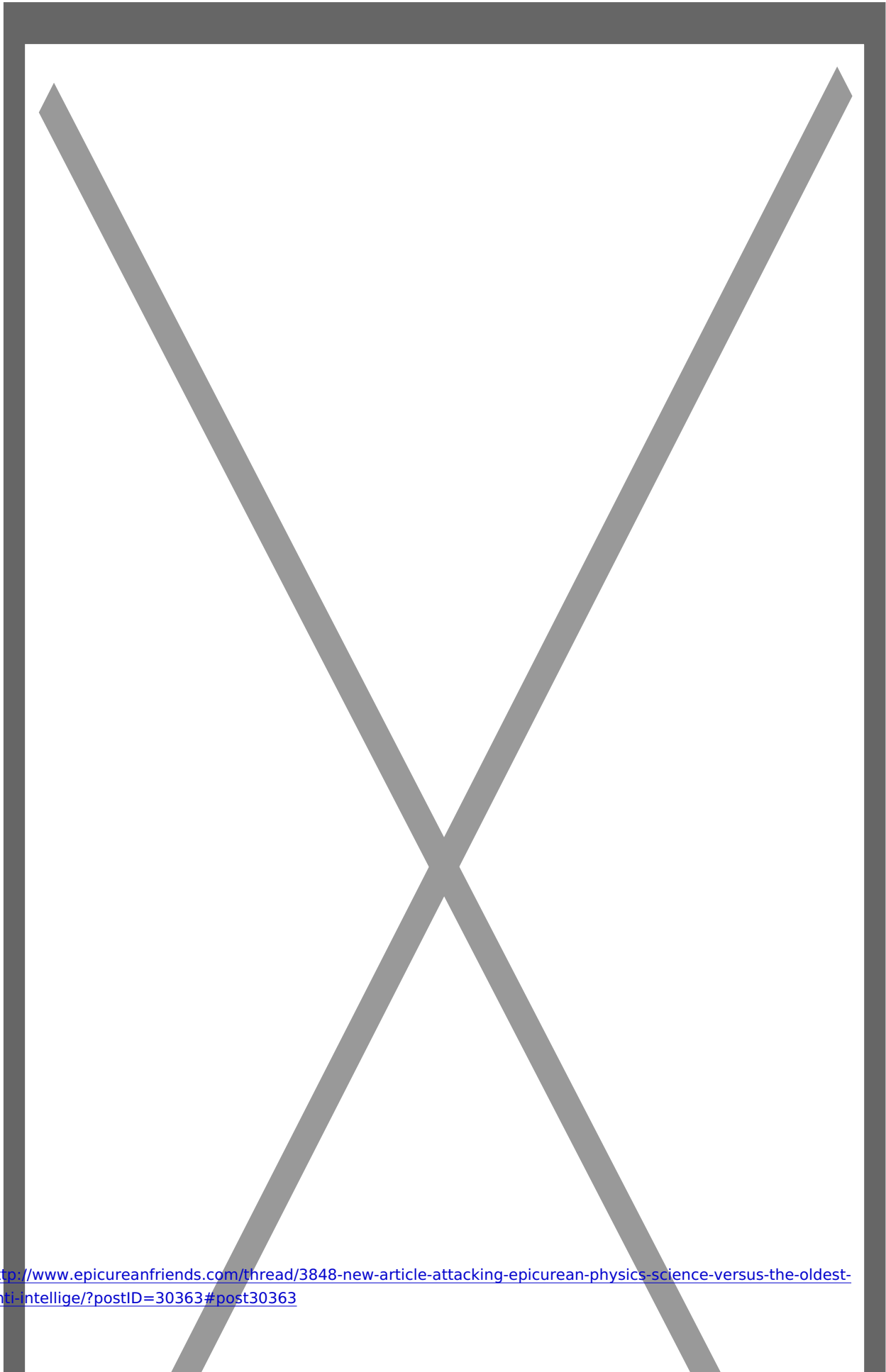
While the lead-in that there was no intelligent design for the entire universe is certainly true, it appears to me that this is going to be one of those examples of not scrutinizing the meaning of "random" closely enough, and winding up with an "anything is possible given enough time and space" which is not what Epicurus or Lucretius said.

Rather, as Lucretius said, "[62] When human life to view lay foully prostrate upon earth crushed down under the weight of religion, who showed her head from the quarters of heaven with hideous aspect lowering upon mortals, a man of Greece ventured first to lift up his mortal eyes to her face and first to withstand her to her face. Him neither story of gods nor thunderbolts nor heaven with threatening roar could quell: they only chafed the more the eager courage of his soul, filling him with desire to be the first to burst the fast bars of nature's portals. Therefore the living force of his soul gained the day: on he passed far beyond the flaming walls of the world and traversed throughout in mind and spirit the immeasurable universe; whence he returns a conqueror to tell us what can, what cannot come into being; in short on what principle each thing has its powers defined, its deep-set boundary mark."

So as I understand this issue in Epicurean terms, certain things are possible, and others are impossible, no matter how much time or space are involved. Donating an infinitely large number of typewriters to an infinitely large number monkeys for an infinite time will NEVER produce the complete works of Shakespeare.

Probably lots to discuss here over time - this writer is far too eager to "bench" Epicurus.

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<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3848-new-article-attacking-epicurean-physics-science-versus-the-oldest-anti-intellige/?postID=30363#post30363>

[Science Versus the Oldest Anti-Design Argument | Evolution News](#)

Translation: Everything that exists was made not by intelligent design, but rather by the random arrangement and rearrangement of atoms.

evolutionnews.org

While I don't know that this article addresses the question directly, my go-to article on chance and randomness in Epicurean theory is:

File

[Long: "Chance and Natural Law In Epicureanism"](#)



Long: "Chance and Natural Law In Epicureanism"



Cassius

June 28, 2019 at 8:52 AM

And this quote below (as well as the title "Science" vs.....) is why I reject the blanket benediction of the word "science" (without reference to the specific who and how and why and explanation of the "science") as well as the idea that the "big bang" answers anything. As Epicurus asked his teachers, What existed before the "big bang? Where did the big bang come from? And what about the space beyond that which is currently observable?"

Quote from "A Crumbling Foundation" (?)

But the old fallback is not as reliable as it once seemed. The first crack was the discovery of cosmic expansion, just a few decades after Darwin proposed his theory. After more than two thousand years of Epicurean influence, and contrary to the assurances of mainstream physicists at the time, it turned out that the universe was not eternal, and probably not infinite. That meant it was no longer a given that any improbability could be explained by the sheer size and age of the universe.