

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

Post by "Cassius" of May 13, 2024 at 2:40 PM

[Quote from Martin](#)

The formation of life on Earth had similar odds.

Since we're setting up all sorts of good questions to ask, I am not sure that I would intuitively agree with this either. The whole idea that the universe consists of "truly random" events seems to me to be very questionable, and that the better alternative view is (as I interpret Epicurus, maybe incorrectly) that the world is the result of natural un-designed combinations of atoms with fixed natures (suitable seeds) (but not truly "random" in the sense of all combinations being possible) which therefore limits the possibilities and disposes toward some results more than others.

Given that life exists on Earth, we know that the possible combinations leading to life are non-zero (out of "nine" planets, in fact, one has life). So I would think that the "chances" of repetition of things that we know to exist is far greater than the chance of occurrence of things that we intuitively grasp have never existed in our experience (monkeys have never in our past duplicated Shakespeare).

I'll be the first to admit that these questions are not easy to answer, but almost certainly they were grappled with by the ancient Epicureans, so we should grapple with them too.