

# **December 2, 2024 - First Monday Epicurean Philosophy Zoom Discussion - Agenda**

**Post by “Kalosyni” of November 26, 2024 at 3:14 PM**



December 2, 2024

8pm ET

# First Monday Epicurean Philosophy Hour



This month's topic:  
"The Universe is Infinite in  
Size and Eternal in Time,  
and has no Gods over it."

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4159-december-2-2024-first-monday-epicurean-philosophy-zoom-discussion-agenda/?postID=33103#post33103>

Meet-and-greet and discussion open to all forum members

Coming up next Monday evening is our First Monday!

Agenda: Welcome and introductions, discuss current popular forum threads, discussion on topic, and time for questions.

The topic of discussion is the second major doctrine of Epicurean philosophy and here is a description as it is presented on our front page:

Once Epicurus determined that the universe results from atoms moving naturally through void, he reasoned that the universe could not exist if the atoms were infinite in number but space were limited in size. If that were so, everything would be close-packed and nothing could move. Likewise, the universe could not exist if the atoms were limited in number but space were unlimited in size, If that were so, the atoms would never combine into bodies, any more that debris floating on a vast ocean could ever come together to form solid objects. Epicurus therefore deduced that universe is infinite in size - both the number of atoms and the extent of space are infinite.

From this Epicurus concluded that there can be nothing "outside" the universe as a whole, and so everything that exists is a part of the universe if it exists at all. This conclusion eliminates the possibility of supernatural forces existing "over" or "outside" the universe, and it focuses our attention on the tremendous implications of infinity. Given the infinity of atoms and space, all combinations of atoms which are possible can be expected to come into existence an infinite number of times and places. This does not mean that "anything" is possible, because some combinations of atoms are physically impossible. We know, for example, that there are no "Centaur," or "Supernatural Gods," because it is Nature itself which sets the limits between what is possible and what is impossible.

As Epicurus wrote to Herodotus: "These brief sayings, if all these points are borne in mind, afford a sufficient outline for our understanding of the nature of existing things. Furthermore, there are infinite worlds both like and unlike this world of ours. For the atoms being infinite in number, as was proved already, are borne on far out into space. For those atoms, which are of such nature that a world could be created out of them or made by them, have not been used up either on one world or on a limited number of worlds, nor again on all the worlds which are alike, or on those which are different from these. So that there nowhere exists an obstacle to the infinite number of the worlds." (Bailey, at 45).

Read about more about the topic in our forums [here](#).

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If you are interested but have not previously attended a First Monday, let us know so we can get the link to you. All others will receive link reminder as usual.

Also, any previous attendees who have been absent from the forum for some time or have not attended within the last 6 months, please send private message to be added back into the link conversation.

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