

# **Article - David Sedley - 1988 - "Epicurean Anti-Reductionism"**

**Post by "DaveT" of March 26, 2026 at 11:13 AM**

Sorry I missed the discussion on this topic since my observation may already have been raised and answered.

Why should interpretations of Epicurus' thinking on atoms, that is, whether he was either or both a reductionist and/or an anti reductionist, be relevant to modern practice of Epicurean lifestyle? Compared to modern discoveries, albeit they stand on Epicurus' intuitions about atoms, his explanations of atoms and void are rather simplistic.

I don't question that this topic is a worthy one among historians of Epicurus' teachings. However, the study of reality arising from perceived nature, and logically intuited unseen nature, as Epicurus demanded, seems to point us beyond the history if we want to live a happy life grounded in reality and not mythology.

For me, the advances in physics over the last 100 years have led to modern scientific discoveries that further advance what Epicurus encouraged.