

"Nothing Comes from Nothing" and Parmenides

Post by "Matt" of January 21, 2021 at 6:53 PM

That is a funny anecdotal story [Elli](#).



After all I am Laughing Democritus!

Just so we are clear I'm not a great lover of Parmenides in general. I'm simply using his ideas on being and nothing to help conceptualize something that I'm sure is very troubling for many people...envisioning an eternal universe.

I mean whether we are talking about big bangs, singularities, collapsing fifth dimensional universes, steady state universes etc. there is the need to conceptualize this principle of the eternal universe. Something does not come from nothing ex nihilo.

If I was a Neoplatonist I would say the aggregate One manifests the universe and chain of being perpetually through emanationism. In the eternal now. None of that is provable in reality or observable. But they also held to an eternal universe. I believe the Aristotelians did too, as do many "eastern" philosophies that shall not be named here.

Also again even the biblical narratives and myths like Zurvanism in Iranian philosophy held to the notion of a pre-existing "thing"...god, principle,etc that either creates or simply manifests the universe, often from "itself" or a slain enemy like a dragon etc. like Tiamat in Babylonian myth. Creatio ex nihilo in concept anyway simply isn't feasible...since everyone, no matter who, has a first principle.