

Astronomical Events During the Time of Epicurus (& Discussion on Letter to Pythocles Section 91)

Post by “Eikadistes” of May 27, 2021 at 8:27 PM

Thinking out loud...

While Epicurus sailed the Aegean, he would have seen how the Sun and the Moon maintain their size, no matter where they are located in the sky, nor in which direction they are moving; whereas, even the tallest mountains of Greece shrink in the distance as we sail away from them at a moderate pace, so the Sun and the Moon must be immeasurably larger by comparison than a mountain.

If some of the light of the Sun can still be seen when the Moon is in front of it, then the Sun must be larger than the Moon, and must be removed from the Moon by a distance greater than its own diameter (already defined as being "*immeasurable large by comparison*"), so the space between the Sun and the Moon must be at least as immeasurably large as the diameter of the Sun.

For a distant object to appear larger than a nearer object, it must at least *slightly* larger; for a **severely** distant object to appear larger than a *significantly* nearer object, it must be **much** larger than the closer object. The Sun is removed from the Moon by an immeasurably-large-by-comparison amount of space, so the Sun *could* be immeasurably larger by comparison than the Moon.

I suppose I'm postulating then Epicurus may have had more nuanced opinions about the celestial spheres than we have documented. Simple knowledge of the eclipses should seem to have demonstrated that the Sun is, at least, *demonstrably* larger than the Moon, if not **incredibly** larger. Surely, Epicurus saw that the moon seems larger than distant mountains, which are *obviously* **immense**.