

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

Post by "Cassius" of May 27, 2021 at 9:14 PM

[Quote from Nate](#)

why he suggested that both celestial objects are about the same size.

You're probably right but did he say that precisely, or was it that both were "about the size they appear to be?"

[Quote from Nate](#)

so the Sun and the Moon must be immeasurably larger by comparison than a mountain.

YES I think that is a very important point, and for me that seals in my mind that people who assert that he thought the sun to be the size of a basketball, or whatever analogy they use to indicate that Epicurus thought the sun was relatively small, are full of nonsense.

Like I said in the podcast I don't think it's necessary to try to maintain that Epicurus' view of the size of the sun has turned out to be "exactly correct," although i am open to the possibility that the "size that it appears" might even be stretched that far, especially if we could find more of Epicurus' writings on the subject.

But even if we don't maintain that Epicurus was completely right, there's no need at all to ridicule his position as absolutely wrong, at least without noting the point that you are making here that Epicurus surely understood that the Sun is very large.