

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

Post by "Don" of May 27, 2021 at 10:31 PM

Quote

"An eclipse of the sun or moon may be due to the extinction of their light, just as within our own experience this is observed to happen ; and again by interposition of something else--whether it be the earth or some other invisible body like it. And thus we must take in conjunction the explanations which agree with one another, and remember that the concurrence of more than one at the same time may not impossibly happen. [He says the same in Book XII. of his "De Natura," and further that the sun is eclipsed when the moon throws her shadow over him, and the moon is eclipsed by the shadow of the earth ; or again, eclipse may be due to the moon's withdrawal, [97] and this is cited by Diogenes the Epicurean in the first book of his "Epilecta."]

So, according to Epicurus (in Herodotus), the moon and sun and Earth don't necessarily interact the way Nate had laid out. So, Epicurus, viewing the eclipse wouldn't necessarily have had to conclude that the sizes of the bodies implied those sizes Nate was referring to. Epicurus had multiple explanations at his disposal.

This still doesn't address "How big did Epicurus think the moon and sun were?" however. Still looking into that.