

# What holds me back from embracing EP

Post by "EricR" of March 1, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Fascinating conversation! Thanks, folks.

It reminds me how much discomfort many of us experience with uncertainty. Also, each of you has a personal take on this question which is at it must be. I don't think I can respond to each of your specific comments except to say I appreciate them all. Lots for me to consider and add to the mix. I am far from adamant in my views.

[Cassius](#) I will do my best to read through all the material in your response. Please have patience with an old brain like mine that reads slower than it used to. 😊

[Matt](#) I love your references to Taoism. I've been involved in that tradition for a loooooong time so I know where you're coming from. (I taught a Taoist martial and health art (Baguazhang) for 20 years.)

With regard to atoms and void, I actually have a response for my own question. It goes like this: We DO know that there are particles and space in which they move. This has been validated repeatedly in particle physics. We DO NOT know if there is something transcendent beyond, behind, above, etc.

The example I offered of the eastern assertion that "all is mind, consciousness, spirit" is just that, an assertion. One can choose to believe it which is where it slides into religion. To my thinking, it is a possibility, but here's the salient point...it doesn't matter!

Whether or not there is something other than atoms/void changes nothing about the facts of living that we each face every day. We must meet our needs for food, shelter, etc. no matter what one does or does not believe. Gravity functions the same way for a Christian, Buddhist, or Epicurean. They all fall down, not up. To me, the Epicurean focus on pleasure resonates with me no matter what the actual truth of the universe is.

I fully accept that there may well be only atoms and void. But I try to remain humble enough to know that I don't actually know with certainty if that is the case. The assertion that there is no other possibility seems exactly the same mistake made in religions - mistaking an asserted belief for knowledge. Of course, I may be wrong! 😊