

# The Twelve Fundamentals - Discussion on Lucretius Today Podcast

Post by “Eikadistes” of January 2, 2023 at 11:20 AM

## [Quote from Don](#)

@Nate raises a number of good questions above. My suggestion?

1. Ignore both Dewitt and Clay
2. Go through the letter to Herodotus oneself
3. Come up with any number of foundational principles one wants because there's no way to know what those "12 Rudiments" were referring to.

Both of their lists seem to focus on the makeup of the universe and the behavior of particles. In the middle of Epicurus' discussion on particle behavior, he goes on a tangent about the eidola and sense perception. DeWitt and Clay seem to omit any discussion of sense perception or the emission of films by compound bodies from their lists.

Every list I've come across distinguishes the principle of *things not magically appearing* from *things not magically disappearing*, but to my modern eyes (familiar with the Law of Conservation of Mass), those two look the same. They are both describing the principle of object permanency, and they can both be justified by the same observation.

I am not sure Epicurus would have seen those as separate propositions.

That being said, I am definitely sure, based on the organization of text, that Epicurus meant to distinguish the propositions that "the universe has no edge" from "particles and space are unlimited", but those seem to be saying the same thing to my modern eyes (familiar with the Cosmological Principle of an isotropic universe).

I am now wondering what criterion we might use to determine whether we are reading (*what I'll call*) a "main proposition", versus (*what I'll call*) a "sub-point" that can be derived from the main point.