

# The Twelve Fundamentals - Discussion on Lucretius Today Podcast

**Post by “Little Rocker” of January 5, 2023 at 11:07 PM**

I admit to having on occasion approached the question of providence with kid gloves in the past, chiefly because many of the people I care about accept providence. Hell, they even accept petitionary prayer. But the denial of providence and the Epicurean approach to suffering is perhaps the thing that \*most\* draws me to Epicureanism and the thing I think the Modern Stoics are most disingenuous about (the second being 'preferred indifferents'). So while I applaud the authors who try to address the providential elephant in the room, my experience is that they: 1) lapse into Epicureanism without knowing it (see, for example, the Irvine passage attached, which is pretty much textbook Epicureanism); 2) say something like 'let's agree to disagree (see Pigliucci); or 3) just redefine providence to mean something it's not (like accepting that the past is fixed).

On the other point: I suppose the thing that intrigues me about the '[insert agreed upon swervish term here]' is that these are, in my admittedly limited understanding, two places where stochastic processes are most commonly invoked at high levels of science--in particle physics and in the shocking amount of spontaneous activity happening in the brain.