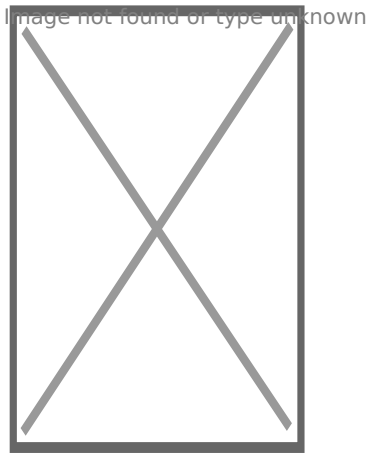


# Epicurus On The Issue of The Universe Being Infinite In Space

Post by “Adrian” of February 3, 2023 at 1:44 PM

The idea of the universe as infinite is an interesting one. What is the nature of the universe and what are its limits? If the universe has always existed what are its boundaries? If the universe has a beginning as a big bang what does it expand into? Both are good questions. I bought a copy of the Penguin Latham translation of Lucretius in the 1970s as a science student. I recently came across this chapter by Frederik Bakker on “The End of Epicurean Infinity: Critical Reflections on the Epicurean Infinite Universe”



[The End of Epicurean Infinity: Critical Reflections on the Epicurean Infinite Universe](#)

In contrast to other ancient philosophers, Epicurus and his followers famously maintained the infinity of matter, and consequently of worlds. This was inferred...

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However the models of classical physics are different to models post Einstein. So I suppose the idea of the universe as infinite has a different meaning depending on the model used? So we have the ideas of Albert Einstein of the relation of space to time. Special Relativity has time as a dimension and so we live in four dimensions. With his General Theory of Relativity the universe does not have an edge and does not expand into anything. Space may be curved. This is discussed well by the physicist Sabine Hossenfelder in her YouTube talk: “What does the universe expand into? Do we expand with it?” With Einstein and the models of modern physics the universe does not expand into anything. It would be interesting to have an imaginary conversation between Albert Einstein, Epicurus and Lucretius in the garden. What would they say?