

Time in Epicurus, Lucretius, and Aristotle

Post by “Joshua” of September 4, 2023 at 10:50 AM

Post

[RE: Episode One Hundred Twenty - Letter to Herodotus 09 - Epicurus' Rejection of Infinite Divisibility](#)

Also: Torquatus section on Mathematics and Geometry (very brief):

[...]

And;

Infinite mathematical detail at the subatomic scale;

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fractal>



Joshua

May 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM

This is one episode of the podcast where we discussed Parmenides and Zeno of Elea on the proposition that motion is impossible as expressed by [Zeno's Paradox](#).

At about the 5:41 mark Cassius starts the conversation.

Lucretius on time from Book I;

Then, too, time in itself does not exist.

From things themselves our senses comprehend [460]

what has been accomplished in the past,

what is present now, then what will follow

afterwards. We must concede that no one

has a sense of time in and of itself,

apart from things in motion or at rest.

What's more, when people claim "the ravishment

of Tyndareus' daughter" or "the rout 650
of Trojan races in the war" are real,
we must take care they do not compel us
to say perhaps that in and of themselves
these things exist, when time, which cannot now
be summoned back, has carried away
men of that generation, those for whom
events like these were merely accidents.(18)
One could say that whatever things are done
are accidents—in one case of the Trojans, [470]
in another of the place itself. Furthermore, 660
if there was no material stuff in things
and no place or space in which all actions
happen, then Helen's beauty would never
have lit the fire of love which then blazed through
the Phrygian chest of Paris, igniting
the glorious struggles of that savage war,
nor would the wooden horse have secretly
delivered in the night those sons of Greece
born from its belly and then set on fire
the citadel of Troy. Thus, you can see 670
that each event has no being—does not,
in any fundamental way, exist
the way that corporeal matter does,
nor can we describe it as existing [480]
in the same way as empty space—instead

you can with justice label all events
accidents of the body and the place
where each of them occurs.