

Time in Epicurus, Lucretius, and Aristotle

Post by “Don” of September 4, 2023 at 9:53 PM

That's a good find!

[Quote from Nate](#)

Philodemus seems to suggest that *time* is, among other things, a preconception: “For *the All* [...] is thought of, just as *Time* [*khronos*] is defined, as being a naturally formed generic conception [*prólepsin*]” (Philodemus, *On Piety*, Col. 66.3-6)

I thought time was one of the things specifically excluded from having a prolepsis.

[DL 10.72] “There is another thing which we must consider carefully. We must not investigate time as we do the other accidents which we investigate in a subject, namely, by referring them to the preconceptions (προλήψεις) envisaged in our minds”

The way Epicurus describes it sounds like we bypass any “preconception”: “we must take into account the plain fact itself... linking to it in intimate connexion this attribute of duration.”