

# Time in Epicurus, Lucretius, and Aristotle

Post by "Don" of September 4, 2023 at 10:48 PM

Following up on [Eikadistes](#)'s find in On Piety, here's the commentary that goes along with that:

## Quote

Lines 1885-6: here the fact that the gods exist in the first instance as conceptualized by humans is illustrated by comparison to the ontological status of time, which according to Epicurus is not even a per se entity {but rather an accident or attribute of other entities), yet is not in consequence any less real. Rather, it is in an epiphenomenon of our thinking about certain occurrences in relation to other events and objects. For the status of time as an accidental property of things see Epic. Ad Herod. 68-73; Demetrius of Laconia ap. Sext. Emp. Adv. math.10.219-27, where time is styled an "accident of accidents"; Lucr. l. 459-63.

We've been looking at the letter to Herodotus and [Joshua](#) is the one who noted the Lucretius quote cited there. I haven't put my finger on the Sextus citation yet.