

What Would Epicurus Think of the Big Bang?

Post by “thatchickinpa” of January 14, 2024 at 11:10 AM

Are there references to substantiate the claimed facts in this essay? For example:

Quote

In any case, supercluster complexes have been observed - huge sheets of galaxies called 'great walls' stretching over a billion light-years of space. They take hundreds of billions of years to form. But the pathetic big bang is only 15 billion years old.

The largest known structure in the observable universe is the Hercules-Corona Borealis Great Wall. It is about 10 billion light years in length. I can find no reference to it - or any other structure in the universe - taking "hundreds of billions of years to form".

The age of the observable universe is approximately 13.8 billion years and is approximately 93 billion light years across (and expanding). There are explanations - supported by the math - as to why a simple speed of light and time calculation for distances does not work for determining its size (or distances).

[Frequently Asked Questions in Cosmology](#)

The *observable* universe means something different than "the universe", and the former is usually what is meant when people talk about it. Is it the former that is referred to in this essay?

The universe is potentially infinite - meaning that the size of the universe is currently unknown - and that link discusses it. The way I think of it is if I go outside in the dark with a candle, I only see as far as the light reaches. But there is more beyond it that I cannot see and is therefore unknown to me. As far as I know, there is only one constraint put on its age - it is at least 13.8 billion years old. It could possibly be infinite.

Quote

But in the meantime, I am not going to let the Lawrence Krausses of the world bother me by injecting doubt as to the existence of a possible supernatural factor into my day to day life.

I have his book, *A Universe from Nothing*, on my bookshelf, but I haven't read it yet (so many books, so little time) so I can't really comment on his theories. Has Krauss claimed / implied a supernatural force was responsible or is this being inferred? From his talks with Dawkins (that

I've seen), he rails pretty hard against such things.

As a disclaimer, I am not a cosmologist and don't pretend to know the field well. With my rudimentary understanding I don't see how believing the theory of the Big Bang is inconsistent with Epicureanism or suggests a supernatural force.