

What Would Epicurus Think of the Big Bang?

Post by "Don" of January 14, 2024 at 11:39 AM

For reference, here's a thread from 2020 where we were discussing this topic:

Thread

[Infinity and the Expanding Universe](#)

Recently there was some discussion of the expanding universe, heat death, the infinite (in time and space) universe and the ramifications of these ideas. I just came across an image from 1750 of the universe comprised of infinite galaxies, which made me think that it might be useful to start a thread on the topic. Just in case anybody would like their mind blown!

epicureanfriends.com/wcf/attachment/1240/

Here's the article that the image came from:

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Godfrey

July 23, 2020 at 4:50 PM

It includes a link to the Dawkins/Krauss video.

PS. I feel the need to emphasize that the Epicureans clearly conveyed that "nothing comes from nothing." But the texts may use that shorthand but elsewhere clarify that they mean "nothing comes from that which did not previously exist." Basically, everything gets recycled into something else in the infinite expanse of the universe - not just our little cosmos here but what Epicurus and others called The All in the texts, Το Πάν TO ΠΑΝ... Latin uses universus (From ūnus ("one") + versus ("turned")), hence literally "turned into one") with the same meaning.

In modern physics, they're not saying "nothing comes from nothing" either. Their confusing shorthand provocative layman's "nothing" is just the quantum fields permeating all of space. The idea of the cosmos - our observable universe - coming out of a quantum fluctuation... similar to what some cosmologists posit is the ultimate fate of our cosmos (NOT the universe remember) an unimaginable number of billions and trillions of years in the future - strikes me as elegant. The new cosmos and our current one doesn't/ didn't come from nothing. It was birthed from the very existing underlying structure of the infinite universe.

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3644-what-would-epicurus-think-of-the-big-bang/?postID=28637#post28637>