

What Would Epicurus Think of the Big Bang?

Post by "Don" of January 15, 2024 at 7:57 AM

[Quote from Bryan](#)

In minute 20 "There are no particles in the world, the basic fundamental building blocks of our universe are these fluid-like substances that we call fields"

What is a "substance that is not made of any particles"?

There are "particles" just not as we have become accustomed to think of them. The metaphor he uses of waves on the ocean seems appropriate as long as it's not taken literally.

This whole presentation gets at the discussions we've all had on the forum in the past about different levels of perspectives and reality at different levels of perception. "By convention sweet and by convention bitter, by convention hot, by convention cold, by convention color; but in reality atoms and void." from Democritus. This presentation could be summed up "By convention atoms and void; but in reality waves and fields."

We don't exist at the level of waves and fields, we live our lives in the macroscopic world. But we make use of the knowledge gained by quantum field theory every day in our electronic devices. But pleasure and pain don't need to be understood at the subatomic level to guide our lives. We're flesh and blood and bone and brain interacting with other physical, emotional creatures trying to get through the day.

For me, the idea that the particles that make me are ripples on a cosmic ocean, connecting me to every other thing in the universe, is awe-inspiring in the best way. No gods necessary. Just the infinite structure of an infinite universe bubbling up here and there.