

Key Citations - The Universe As Infinite In Space - Many Worlds With Life

Post by “kochiekoch” of July 16, 2024 at 3:18 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Whenever I hear "multiverse" my blood runs cold, especially with references to "different laws of physics." Apparently "multiverse" needs closer definition too, and anyone who wants to explore that is welcome, but it's not likely to be me. I am firmly in the camp that "universe" should be taken to mean "all that exists" - and if that's what the word means then fine, but I see no reason to change the traditional meaning of "everything." But the "different laws of physics" is a showstopper too, from an Epicurean perspective, it seems to me. Sure different circumstances lead to different outcomes, but that's different circumstances, not different "laws of physics."

LOL!!! You aren't the first person I've discussed this with that's uncomfortable with the term "multiverse". And I get it. If you had any number of "multiverses", the whole landscape, as it's called would still equal a unified whole. A "universe". The term "multiverse" is just what is used to describe, hypothetically, an infinite universe.

Each one of the "multiverses", as they freeze out in their beginnings, MIGHT have different laws of physics. Again, we are talking hypotheticals.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

The most interesting questions to me seem to be along the lines stated above, including:

Whether infinity means that any combination of atoms which *is* possible does in fact happen,

Whether any combination which does happen, happens and infinite number of times.

Whether the swerve of the atom, or something like irrational numbers / fractals / fibonacci sequences, should make us expect that "classes" of "like" events will happen an infinite number of times, like snowflakes or grains of sand, but that recurrence in IDENTICAL ways should not be expected.

The thing is, given an infinite space and an infinite amount of time, things will reoccur infinitely, as there is only so many ways the atoms can be arraigned. It's tough to wrap your mind around.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Difficult perhaps, but not for that reason something that we should not do. In fact the "recommendation" or "command" that we do spend our time considering it is probably one of the most clear "recommendations" that Epicurus gives. Lots of the other material ends up being "Choose what makes the most sense in terms of pleasure and pain in your own situation." In this case, he's giving a flat statement to students that this is something we should definitely do. I am on board that this is a much-neglected aspect of Epicurean philosophy that needs to be dramatically elevated in focus.

LOL!!! It certainly helps to be down to earth, 😄, and focus on the practical! Epicurus does suggest we study nature to aid us in our quest for pleasure. Couldn't agree more.

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