

# What Did the Ancient Epicureans Think Were The Upper And Lower Limits of Atomic Size?

Post by "Bryan" of September 6, 2024 at 12:56 PM

While atoms are a mechanism for vision, they cannot be visible -- they compose the films that allow us to perceive everything else, but do not produce films themselves. We do have Epicurus on the topic at 56a. "but every Size [of atom] existing is also not useful for [producing] the differences of qualities - and It would also therefore have been necessary for visible Atoms to arrive among us (Which are not observed to be produced) nor is It possible to conceive how a visible Atom would be produced"

[Bailey] But the existence of atoms of every size is not required to explain the differences of qualities in things, and at the same time some atoms would be bound to come within our ken and be visible; but this is never seen to be the case, nor is it possible to imagine how an atom could become visible.