

Episode 251 - Cicero's OTNOTG 26 - How Niagara Falls Helps Us Understand the Flux, the Heap, and the Epicurean Gods

Post by “Cassius” of October 18, 2024 at 12:20 PM

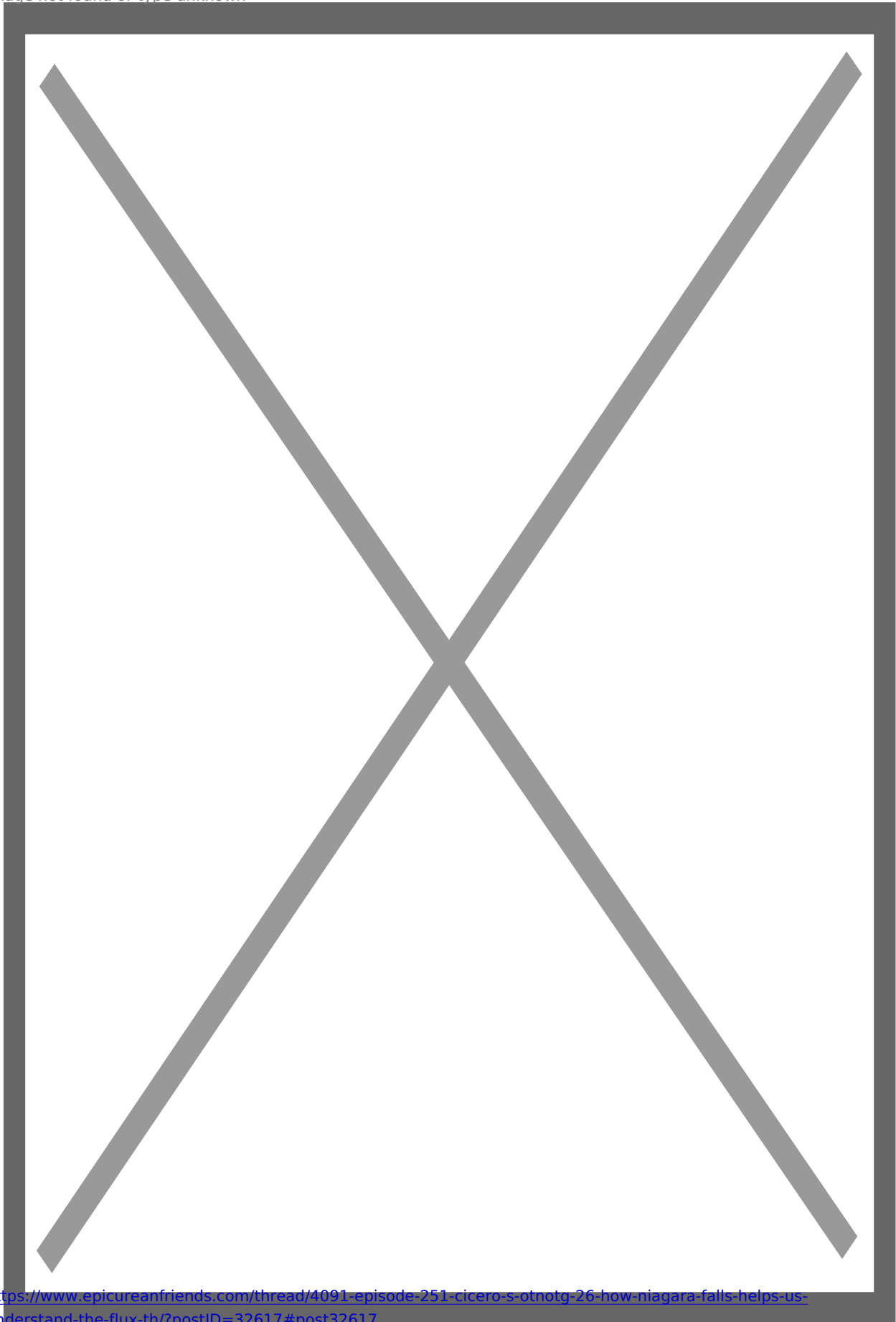
I don't have any cites but I would expect that the ancient Epicureans could well have been familiar with this example of bodily regeneration, which would be relevant to the possibility of continuous regeneration and therefore imperishability:

Starfish, or sea stars, are [radially symmetrical](#), star-shaped organisms of the [phylum Echinodermata](#) and the [class Asteroidea](#).^[1] Aside from their distinguishing shape, starfish are most recognized for their remarkable ability to [regenerate](#), or regrow, arms and, in some cases, entire bodies. While most [species](#) require the central body to be intact in order to regenerate arms, a few tropical species can grow an entirely new starfish from just a portion of a severed limb.^[2] **Starfish regeneration** across species follows a common three-phase model and can take up to a year or longer to complete.^[2] Though regeneration is used to recover limbs eaten or removed by [predators](#), starfish are also capable of [autotomizing](#) and regenerating limbs to evade predators and reproduce.^[2]

Quote

Due to their wide range of regenerative capabilities, starfish have become [model organisms](#) for studying how the regenerative process has evolved and diversified over time. While the overall morphological processes have been well documented in many starfish, little is known regarding the underlying molecular mechanisms that mediate their [regeneration](#). Moreover, some researchers hope starfish may one day serve as inspiration for therapeutics aiming to expand the extent to which humans can repair and replace damaged cells or tissues.^[3]

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<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4091-episode-251-cicero-s-otnotg-26-how-niagara-falls-helps-us-understand-the-flux-th/?postID=32617#post32617>

[Starfish regeneration - Wikipedia](#)

en.m.wikipedia.org

[Pliny discussing Starfish](#) (but apparently not the regeneration quality):

CHAP. 86. (60.)—SEA-STARS.

In addition to what I have already stated, I find that authors, distinguished for their wisdom, express surprise at finding a star in the sea—for such, in fact, is the form of the animal, which has but very little flesh²⁸⁴⁵ within, and nothing but a hard skin without. It is said that in this fish there is such a fiery heat, that it scorches everything it meets with in the sea, and instantaneously digests its food. By what experiments²⁸⁴⁶ all this came to be known, I cannot so easily say; but I am about to make mention of one fact which is more remarkable still, and which we have the opportunity of testing by every day's experience.