

Clear But Not Convincing Evidence

Post by “Cassius” of October 22, 2024 at 5:09 AM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

Also of note is the passage from Cicero wherein he suggests that an Epicurean would deny the existence of the sea if he had never seen it with his own eyes. On this point I would echo Christopher Hitchens; extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. There's nothing extraordinary about water in quantity, so the existence of the sea can be provisionally accepted pending confirmation. The existence of ghosts would be extraordinary, and so merits skepticism.

And just to be clear, you are disagreeing with Cicero (in this case Cotta). An Epicurean who lives inland would not deny the existence of the sea, because he knows that water can accumulate into bodies, and there is no physical reason why under the right circumstances into very large bodies.