

Was Bruno An Epicurean Or A Pantheist?

Post by “Cassius” of April 11, 2025 at 11:01 AM

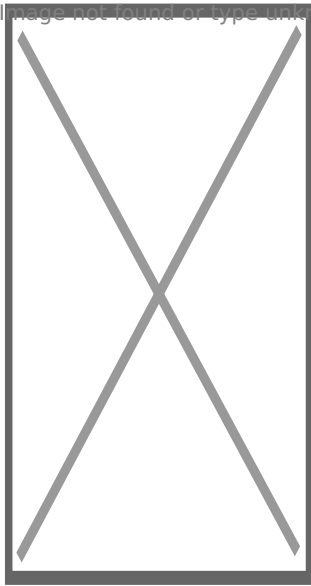
Selecting out something of particular interest in that large wall of text, I'd like to verify if THIS is accurate, as it is an explicit criticism of Epicurean views of the universe:

1. On Materialism in *De immenso et innumerabilibus* (On the Immense and Innumerable, 1591):
 - Context: In this Latin work, Bruno elaborates his cosmology, incorporating atomistic ideas but infusing them with vitalism. He discusses the composition of the universe, referencing ancient thinkers.
 - Quote (Book 1, Chapter 6, translated by J. Lewis McIntyre):

“Some, like the Epicureans, have thought the universe to be composed of atoms and void alone, but they err in denying the universal soul that binds and vivifies all.”
 - Analysis: This is one of the rare instances where Bruno explicitly references “Epicureans.” He acknowledges their atomistic framework but criticizes it for “denying the universal soul,” a core tenet of his philosophy. For Bruno, atoms aren’t just inert particles (as in Epicurus’ system) but are imbued with a divine, animating force. This critique directly challenges Epicurean materialism, which avoids any spiritual or teleological principle, seeing the universe as a random interplay of atoms. Bruno’s use of “err” signals a clear disagreement with Epicurus’ reductionist view.
 - Criticism?: Explicit and direct. This is the strongest evidence of Bruno criticizing Epicurean thought, though it’s still framed as a philosophical correction rather than a personal attack on Epicurus.

Looks like this work is here:

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[Giordano Bruno](#)

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No - it's [here](#), but in Latin.....