

Updated FAQ Entry: Why Should I Care About Epicurean Physics When So Much Science Has Changed In The Last 2000 Years?

Post by "Titus" of June 17, 2026 at 4:06 PM

Personally, I think it's obvious that some of Epicurus' theories about how the world functions don't match with what is scientific consensus nowadays.

On the other hand, Epicurus and Epicurean philosophy in general still masters describing natural occurrences and concluding their implications for our lives. This is why I love Epicurean philosophy so much, it teaches as coherent system of thought, combining epistemology, physics and ethics to a sound theory of "everything", at least from the human perspective.

Lucretius for example talks about how every cluster of atoms (e.g a human body) has to resist forces to persist. He talks about ageing being a natural occurrence of clusters that aren't able to hold their form/energy anymore. There is so much insight that, on the other hand, the up-to-date scientists aren't able to transfer to how to live according to their "revelations". Their knowledge is usually isolated and with comments of "everything is just valid as long as no better theory has been developed" which I appreciate for don't taking an absolutist stance.

But the "relativistic" view opens the gate for any other variant of human behaviour, usually leading to acceptance of everything as long it doesn't break the rules of a society. That's where Epicurus would tell otherwise, giving advice to existential questions and putting them into a framework that is, at least from a simplistic point of view, embedded into a sound materialistic universe.

Does anyone know something equivalent?