

Discussion of the Society of Epicurus' 20 Tenets of 12/21/19

Post by "Elayne" of January 7, 2020 at 3:15 PM

That's interesting, Cassius-- I don't read Hitchens' words that way at all. He was a thorough atheist. Impenetrable for him definitely did not imply the supernatural. The supernatural is ruled out. I think he was talking about the sense of wonder over nature.

In the article I linked earlier, there is mention of a possibility that some kind of "fluctuation" in a vacuum resulted in matter-- a possible beginning which would not include a god. How would it happen? I don't know, but not knowing is no reason to stick a supernatural god in it as a placeholder since there's absolutely zero evidence for one.

The universe as infinite and eternal doesn't quite fit all the data either, if I understand correctly, with the models so far. Neither does a finite universe or one with a beginning. No model yet has fit everything observed-- the "theory of everything" is the grail of physics. Doesn't mean we can never figure it out, but that's different from saying "that means supernatural gods can exist." I know it sounds related, but it isn't exactly. There's not a god-sized hole in any of the theories. Difficulties understanding the exact nature of time, for instance, don't leave room for the supernatural.

This is one of those places where either I'm different from Epicurus or he would have taken physics data he didn't have access to back then into account and said that we have at least gotten enough info to be very certain there's no supernatural and no absolute. Both of us would feel equally secure in that knowledge even if we arrived at our conclusions differently.