

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

Post by "Cassius" of January 7, 2020 at 5:00 PM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

What this means to us laymen is that when we read a news story on the most current theory, we lack most of the building blocks leading up to it.

Which reminds me of this below, as I was flipping through and find this quote from Stephen Hawking.

The part in red I do not believe for a second. Just like for the last 2500 hundred years, I think it is a dead-correct bet that for the next 2500 years we'll be doing the same thing: observing, finding new evidence, constructing new theories, and then revising them over and over in a cycle. And in the meantime each generation lives only about 80 years at most, and has to decide how to live in the interim:

This quote is from this lecture by Hawking entitled "The Origin of the Universe": <http://www.hawking.org.uk/the-origin-of-the-universe.html>

Despite having had some great successes, not everything is solved. We do not yet have a good theoretical understanding of the observations that the expansion of the universe is accelerating again, after a long period of slowing down. Without such an understanding, we cannot be sure of the future of the universe. Will it continue to expand forever? Is inflation a law of Nature? Or will the universe eventually collapse again? New observational results and theoretical advances are coming in rapidly. Cosmology is a very exciting and active subject. We are getting close to answering the age old questions. Why are we here? Where did we come from?

Thank you for listening to me.

So call me presumptuous and arrogant to suggest that I know better than Stephen Hawking, but I don't believe for a second that we are getting close to "ultimate" answers. On this I am comfortable with Frances Wright and 2500 year old reasoning. There will always be new discoveries and new horizons and unanswered questions for science to attack.