

Episode Nineteen - All Things Are Not Made of Tiny Pieces of The Same Thing, Or Of All Things (Anaxagorus' Homoeomery)

Post by "Cassius" of May 17, 2020 at 10:59 AM

In this episode we got off onto a side discussion of Lucretius' reference to fires starting naturally from the tops of trees rubbing together in the wind. We discussed whether that actually happens or not, and went looking for links.

Here is one, but not authoritative: <https://www.quora.com/Can-a-forest-f...due-to-friction>

If anyone has any better info on whether this actually happens, please post.

<http://agritech.tnau.ac.in/agriculture/ag...forestfire.html>

CAUSES OF FOREST FIRE

Forest fires are caused by natural causes as well as man made causes

- Natural causes: Many forest fires start from natural causes such as lightning which set trees on fire. However, rain extinguishes such fires without causing much damage. High temperatures, temperatures and dryness also favorably offer favorable circumstances for a fire to start.
- Man made causes: Fire is caused when a source of fire like a candle, stove, cigarette or bulb, electric spark or any source of ignition comes into contact with inflammable material.

Traditionally, Indian forests have been affected by fires. This menace has been aggravated with rising human and cattle population and the consequent increase in demand for forest products by individuals and communities. Causes of forest fires can be divided into two broad categories: environmental (which are beyond control) and human related (which are controllable).

Environmental causes are largely related to climatic conditions such as temperature, wind speed and direction, level of moisture in soil and atmosphere and duration of dry spells. Other natural causes are the friction of branches, twigs, due to high wind velocity, and falling stones that result in sparks setting off fires in highly inflammable fuel like on the forest floor.