

# Episode Thirty-Two: The Atoms Are Colorless, But the Implications Are Not

Post by "Don" of August 22, 2020 at 10:47 PM

I always forget these episodes are at least a week old for you as opposed to those of us just listening to them 😊

## Quote

Don as I recall from the episode there was discussion to the effect that "indivisible" ultimate particles might be sustainable by modern science and something that we can or should still maintain to be true, but not "immutable."

I think that's probably the issue you're addressing but I am not quite sure from what you wrote where you would come down on that.

Could you clarify what you're saying as it applies to that issue?

I'm responding to the extended discussion starting at when you quoted DRN at 14:23 and then you ( [Cassius](#) ) said Lucretius is talking about an "ultimate particle of some kind that has unchanging characteristics" and [Elayne](#) says "there's no such thing as that."

My contention is that Lucretius was simply talking about the Epicurean "un-cuttables" or "seeds" as Lucretius sometimes calls them. Here he uses *principiis* (line 757, Latin) "first-beginnings" as a name for the "atoms" or what is unchanging. Then he goes on to talk about how important it is in how they're held together. That's what gives these "unchanging" things the ability to impart characteristics to the things we see. But, being the basic building blocks of the universe, these seeds/atoms/first-beginnings don't change, just like (at a basic - NOT modern chemistry/physics level) carbon atoms are carbon atoms no matter whether the arrangement is coal or graphite or diamond.