

Space.com Credits Epicurus and Trashes Plato / Aristotle

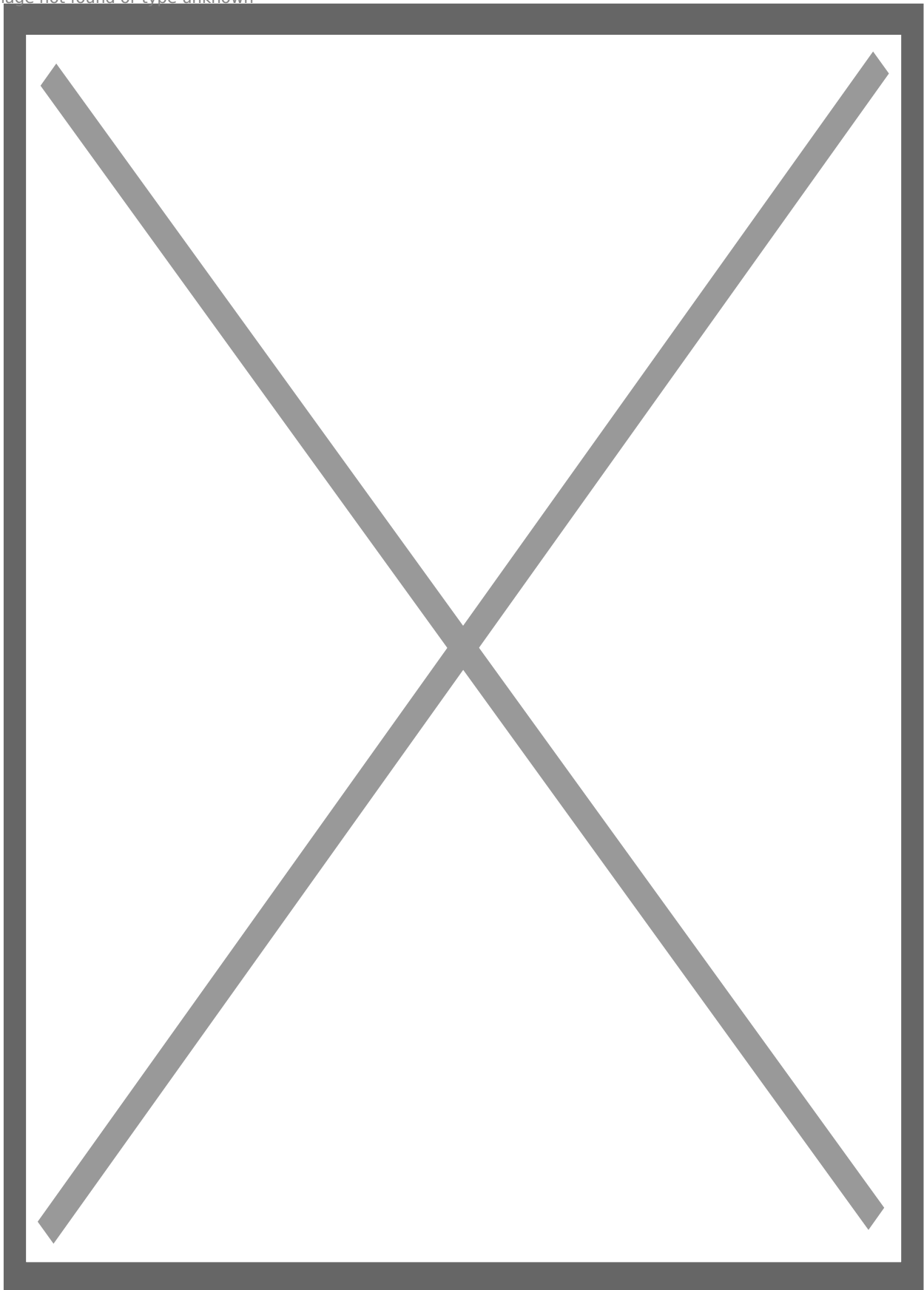
Post by "Cassius" of July 19, 2021 at 7:42 PM

Latest Space.com article referencing Epicurus and life elsewhere -.

Quote

The "cosmic pluralism" theory espoused by Anaximander, Epicurus and their followers didn't take off, unfortunately; it was quashed by the ideas of heavyweights like Plato and Aristotle, who held that Earth is unique.

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[The search for alien life](#)

We've entered an exciting new era in the hunt for aliens.

www.space.com

Post by “Cassius” of July 19, 2021 at 8:44 PM

Two items from that article that are logical deductions that I think might well have figured into Epicurus' thinking:

Quote

After all, life appeared on Earth about 4 billion years ago — very quickly, considering that our planet formed just 4.5 billion years ago and remained hot and inhospitable for a long time thereafter. So, life's emergence doesn't seem miraculous, which, in turn, implies that it could have happened here more than once.

That's one - life is continuously generating both here and elsewhere, so there is no "first living thing" in the universe - life has existed eternally like the universe itself

Quote

Over the eons, billions of Red Planet rocks have made their way here, after being blasted into space by powerful asteroid or comet impacts. A lot of Earth material has ended up on Mars as well, but the ledger is decidedly unbalanced; the sun's powerful gravity pulls more stuff inward, toward Earth. (This extensive rock-swapping, by the way, has led some scientists to postulate that life actually arose first on Mars, then made its way to Earth later.)

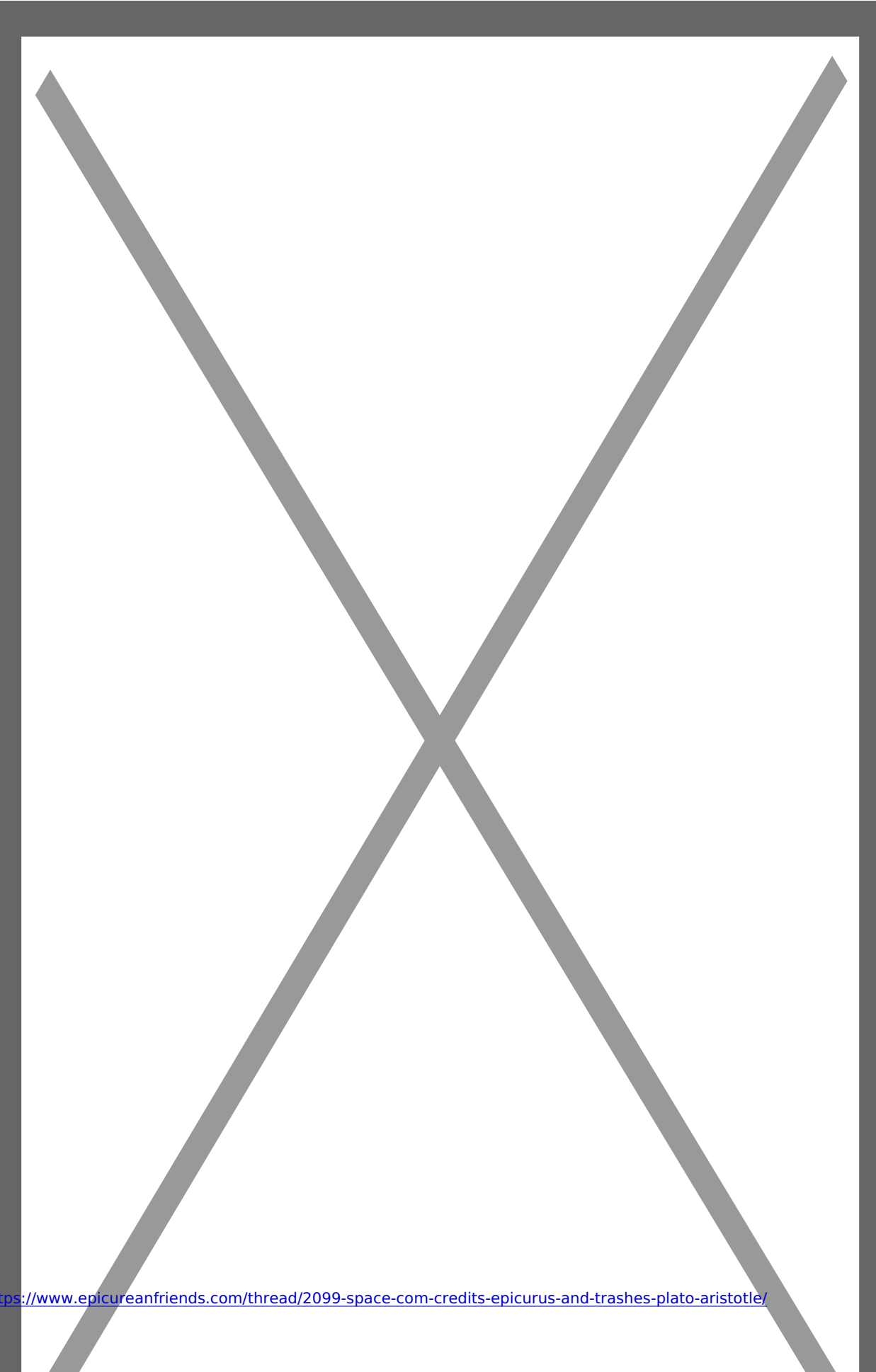
And two - there's no guarantee that the life forms we see today started here on earth - they could have started elsewhere either primitively like the rock transfers or in a more advanced state just as we are about to spread life to other planets through advanced space travel.

Both of these are of course speculative but would be entirely consistent with what we can read in Lucretius.

Post by “Cassius” of July 20, 2021 at 9:46 AM

The video here is just incredible, and fits so nicely into a discussion of life spreading through the universe via space travel:

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[Jeff Bezos and Blue Origin crew return as astronauts after historic launch](#)

CNBC's "Squawk on the Street" team watches Blue Origin land its booster and Jeff Bezos and his crew float back down to Earth's surface in their capsule. The...

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