

Epicurean argument for atoms

1. Reality is made up only of **matter & void**

- sense data shows us material things, & void must exist for matter to move or to be cut
- matter and void exhaust possibilities for what exists (matter = stuff; void = emptiness)

2. Matter cannot come into existence from nothing

3. So some matter must be eternal: things that exist now must have come from other matter, which came from previous matter, etc.

4. Large material things do not exist eternally, so some small material things must exist eternally

6. You can't keep cutting material things forever: they would eventually disappear into pure void (and thus there would be no matter in them)

Therefore, there must be small parts of matter (“**atoms**”) that are not further divisible & exist eternally