

Names of Bits of Reality

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I recently made a discovery I wanted to share:

The Hegemon never really refers to particles as the noun “atoms” or “uncuttables”. He only ever uses a form of word *átomos* as an adjective. As many times as he refers to “uncuttable” parts, he equally refers to them as “countless”, “microscopic”, and “primordial”. Just as easily as we have adopted the term “atom”, we could just as easily say “mikron”, “ametabolon”, or “apeiron”. Still, two words from this Epicurean vocabulary survived history and contribute to contemporary jargon; those two words are “proton” and “lepton”. Otherwise, Epíkouros properly refers to these bits of matter as σπερμά (*spermá*, “seeds”), ἀρχαί (*ārkháí*, “beginnings”), σώματα (*sómata*, simple “bodies”), ὄγκοι (*ónkoi*, “hooks”), τομαί (*tomaí*, “splinters”), λεπτομερής (*leptomerés*, “fine parts”), λεπτοί (*leptoí*, “cents”), μόρια (*mória*, “motes”), and, most frequently, as μέρη (*mérē*) meaning “parts” or “particles”.

Those are my translations of them, anyway. *Lepton* is particularly cool, because is it used when referring to particles of the soul, and lepton is also a small unit of Greek currency, so it lends itself to the phrase “cents of consciousness.” ❤️ (... get it?) 😊