

# Highlights and doubts after reading Chapter 1 (Part 1 of 2)

Post by "Don" of July 5, 2020 at 9:42 PM

You raise some great points here, [Mathitis Kipouros](#) , and I can see some echoes of my reaction to DeWitt. I'll try (and I'm sure others will as well) to respond to some of your questions. First one...

Quote

P4 "The universe consists of atoms and void" so the soul is composed of atoms. **Is somebody willing to elaborate on this point?**

\*Everything\* is atoms and void. **Everything**. Period. The use of the word "soul" is a little misleading here. That word in English implies an immortal aspect of one's identity. The word Epicurus used was ψυχή psyche which could mean what we think of as "soul" but also "the conscious self or personality as centre of emotions, desires, and affections." So, it had a wider connotation. Granted, the Greeks did use this word to mean an immortal entity, but not Epicurus.

In any case, even if it did mean "soul" (as in the innermost core of one's personality and mind and emotions), Epicurus taught that the "soul" was still material. Composed of atoms and void. And when one died, the soul died too, returned to its constituent atoms back to the universe to be reused again. The "soul atoms" may be extremely fine and move quickly (to account for sensation throughout the body), but it was still composed of atoms like everything else.

There is **NO immortal soul** in Epicureanism. After death, there is Nothing to feel, to sense, to experience eternal reward or eternal punishment. That's why "[death is nothing to us](#)." We don't experience it.

I hope that helps.