

Munro Translation of Lucretius

Post by "Don" of September 5, 2021 at 8:27 AM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

This is from DL Book 1, Mensch translation:

24 And some, including the poet Choerilus, say he was the first to declare that souls are immortal. He was the first to discover the course of the sun from solstice to solstice, and the first, according to some, to say that the size of the sun is one seven hundred and twentieth part of the solar circle, <and that the size of the moon is the same fraction of the lunar circle.> He was the first to call the last day of the month the thirtieth, and the first, as some say, to reason about nature.

25 Aristotle and Hippias say that he attributed souls even to inanimate objects, arguing from the magnet and from amber.

Unfortunately I can't find ψυχή in any Greek version online but it's likely due to my ignorance 🙄 [Don](#) do you have a Greek to English comparison to verify that that's the word?

[24] Ἔνιοι δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν πρῶτον εἶπεῖν φασὶν ἀθανάτους τὰς ψυχάς: ὧν ἔστι Χοιρίλος ὁ ποιητής. πρῶτος δὲ καὶ τὴν ἀπὸ τροπῆς ἐπὶ τροπὴν πάροδον εὔρε, καὶ πρῶτος τὸ τοῦ ἡλίου μέγεθος <τοῦ ἡλιακοῦ κύκλου ὡσπερ καὶ τὸ τῆς σελήνης μέγεθος> τοῦ σεληναίου ἑπτακοσιοστὸν καὶ εἰκοστὸν μέρος ἀπεφήνατο κατὰ τινας. πρῶτος δὲ καὶ τὴν ὑστάτην ἡμέραν τοῦ μηνὸς τριακάδα εἶπε. πρῶτος δὲ καὶ περὶ φύσεως διελέχθη, ὡς τινες.

Ἀριστοτέλης δὲ καὶ Ἰππίας φασὶν αὐτὸν καὶ τοῖς ἀψύχοις μεταδιδόναι ψυχῆς, τεκμαιρόμενον ἐκ τῆς λίθου τῆς μαγνήτιδος καὶ τοῦ ἡλέκτρου.

Yep, I've underlined the ψυχή forms in the Greek. Interestingly, the word used for "lifeless, inanimate" in that last paragraph is ἀψυχοις apsykhois "not-psykhē/un-psykhē"

[Cassius](#) may be interested to know that τῆς λίθου τῆς μαγνήτιδος is tēs lithos (rock .. As in Neolithic) tēs magnētidos (of Magnesia)