

Episode One Hundred Nineteen - Letter to Herodotus 08 - More On Perception Through The Atoms

Post by “Don” of April 30, 2022 at 7:18 PM

'by convention sweet and by convention bitter, by convention hot, by convention cold, by convention color; but in reality atoms and void'

[Two truths doctrine - Wikipedia](#)

Great catch, [Joshua](#) , on the Democritus quote. I was unaware of that.

I can easily see Democritus' statement being used to describe the Buddhist doctrine of Two Truths with no difficulty whatsoever. In fact, the Wikipedia article uses "conventional truth" as one of the aspects of the Buddhist doctrine.

That said, I see no reason why that Democritean observation has to end with Buddhist ethics. There's nothing incorrect about Democritus' declaration. That's Epicurus's implication as well. In fact, I believe he says, to paraphrase, "it's atoms and void all the way down." BUT the "truth of reality" does NOT negate the fact that all we have to work with on a day to day basis is the conventional truth. We don't live on the level of "ultimate" truth. We live in the level of conventional, perceptible truth.