

Episode One Hundred Twenty-One - Letter to Herodotus 11 - Atoms, The Soul, And Those Who Are Well Disposed Towards Us

Post by "Don" of May 17, 2022 at 7:29 AM

Quote

60] "Further, we must not assert `up' or `down' of that which is unlimited, as if there were a zenith or nadir.⁹² As to the space overhead, however, if it be possible to draw⁹³ a line to infinity from the point where we stand, we know that never will this space --or, for that matter, the space below the supposed standpoint if produced to infinity-- appear to us to be at the same time `up' and `down' with reference to the same point ; for this is inconceivable. Hence it is possible to assume one direction of motion, which we conceive as extending upwards ad infinitum, and another downwards, even if it should happen ten thousand times that what moves from us to the spaces above our heads reaches the feet of those above us, or that which moves downwards from us the heads of those below us. None the less is it true that the whole of the motion in the respective cases is conceived as extending in opposite directions ad infinitum. (Emphasis added, Hicks from Perseus Digital Library)

Finally getting around to listening to the episode. I wanted to say that I agree with [Cassius](#) on his interpretation of this passage. Correct me if I misinterpreted you, [Cassius](#) . My reading is that that line that I can draw "up" from my head is going to hit the feet of those above me and be interpreted as coming from a "down" direction by them. And their "down" is going to be interpreted by me as coming from an "up" direction. So there is no absolute up and down but even something as supposedly concrete as up and down is relative to the observer.

PS. You don't have to posit other worlds even. Just imagine two people in different stories of a building, one in the ground level and one in the second story. Same situation applies.