

Episode One Hundred Twenty-Three: Letter to Herodotus 12 - Events and Time

Post by “Cassius” of May 28, 2022 at 8:58 AM

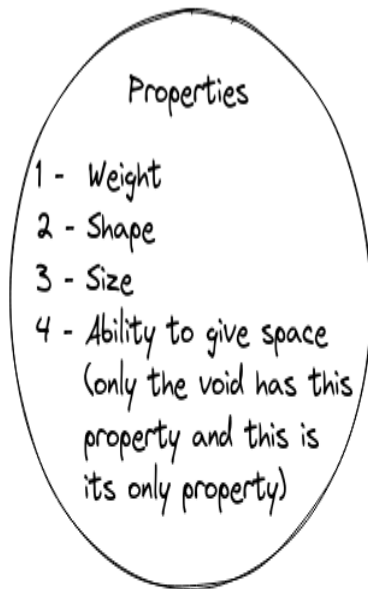
Sorry for the delay in getting this week's episode posted, but it should be up later today. In the meantime as it goes through editing, here are some comments;

1 - Joshua brought up the highly useful idea of using Venn Diagrams to illustrate issues involving the relationship between Properties and Qualities. I'm going to slap together a preliminary version for discussion purposes but it's likely to be either wrong or woefully incomplete. It would be an EXCELLENT idea to get a good one however.

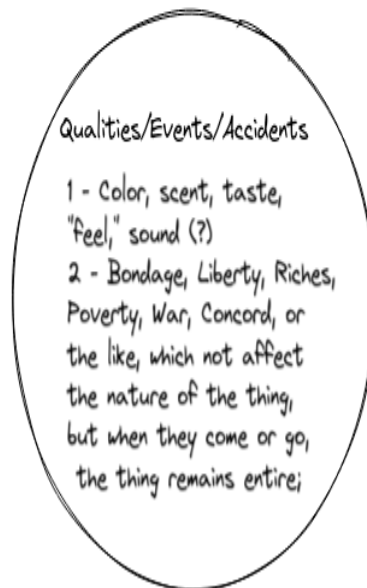
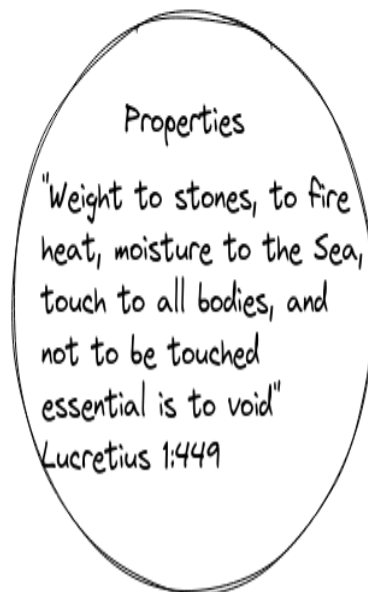
This one needs to be torn apart and put back together but it is a starting point for thought / discussion:

The Relationship of Properties and Qualities in Epicurean Philosophy - DRAFT!!!
 Lucretius 1:418 et seq.; Letter to Herodotus 67 et seq.

Atomic Level
 (individual atoms in
 the void)



"Body" Level
 (atoms and void
 aggregated into people
 and trees and all that is
 in the observable world
 around us)



Takeaways:

1 - Nothing has permanent unchanging existence except atoms and void (no realm of Platonic ideals or Aristotelian Essences)

2 - The atoms have no unchanging eternal properties other than shape, weight, and size. The void has only one eternal and unchanging property: it provides space in which bodies exist.

3 - Human senses cannot penetrate to observe directly the level of unchanging atoms - our sensations occur on the level of "bodies" that we see in the world around us, and therefore our level of existence is subject to change.

3 - Some bodies we consider to have "properties," which are aspects like weight to stones which cannot be changed at our level of existence without destroying what we perceive to be its essence.

4 - Bodies also have "qualities" which can and do change without changing their essence, which include slavery, poverty, riches, war, peace, rest, motion. (See Loeb / Hicks edition of Diogenes Laertius, page 600.)

5 - Successful living requires being able to understand how the world we live in arises from the atomic level, and how some things change while others do not change, all without the creation or supervision of supernatural gods.