

# **Episode One Hundred Twenty - Letter to Herodotus 09 - Epicurus' Rejection of Infinite Divisibility**

**Post by "SimonC" of June 21, 2022 at 8:04 AM**

I'm partway through the episode, but regarding Zeno's motivation: I've understood that he was trying to come up with a rational argument for the teachings of Parmenides, who claimed that all things are one and therefore the perception of change or movement must be an illusion.

But Parmenides claimed to have come by this knowledge through mystical revelation. This would put Zeno in the same category as Anselm of Canterbury, trying to come up with post hoc justification of an essentially religious belief. No wonder that it is not very convincing.

The status of mathematics is interesting to think about. I wonder if it is possible to figure out that, for example, the sum of an infinite series can be finite purely a priori. When Zeno's contemporaries knew that he was wrong, I suspect they knew this from their sensory experience, not from spotting an error in his mathematics.