

PD19 And The Meaning Of No "Greater" Pleasure

Post by "Godfrey" of August 24, 2022 at 2:46 PM

It may have been mentioned earlier in this thread, but Empedocles (I think) saw the universe as being made up of Love and Strife. That, as I recall, was one of the pre-Socratic notions that eventually led to atomism.

Maybe a more directly pertinent thought is the contrast between "pleasure ethics" and "duty ethics". For most of my life I was living by duty ethics, although I wasn't consciously aware of it. Duty ethics is a great way to grow the economy and keep the worker bees buzzing, and it takes the stance that pleasure will be the downfall of everything. Pleasure ethics, on the other hand, is a great way to live life in a manner that is connected to physical reality. No vengeful gods needed. This is one more way that Epicurus endeavored (as it were) to counteract the destructive influence of Plato.