

Democritus' "Nothing is truly real but atoms and void" statement

Post by "Don" of October 4, 2022 at 11:14 AM

For consideration:

[Democritus \(Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy\)](#)

This has a good section of the implications (and possible misinterpreting) of Democritus's "only atoms and void are real."

Also a thought on the "slippery slope to nihilism" if by nihilism one means "the general mood of despair at a perceived pointlessness of existence or arbitrariness of human principles and social institutions." (Wikipedia) Democritus was known as the "laughing philosopher" so he obviously had a reputation of being of good cheer. I think this stems directly from his "only atoms and void are real" perspective. In the words of The Beatles:

Quote

Nothing is real,

And nothing to get hung about.

"Strawberry Fields Forever"

It seems to me that Democritus was saying, "We're all just ultimately atoms and void. All those problems you worry about, all that fame you're chasing, all that will ultimately dissolve into atoms and void! Just chill out and laugh!"