

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

Post by "Don" of October 4, 2022 at 5:53 PM

Okay, found it:

[Die fragmente der Vorsokratiker, griechisch und deutsch, von Hermann Diels. v.2.](#)

I was able to use one of the Greek words to track down the quote in Diels book.

P. 25 (digitized page 39) gives it a cited by Galen in his "Elements according to Hippocrates." There appears to be more context with that in the Greek.

P. 60 (74) cites Sextus Empiricus's "Against the Mathematicians" (that's cited in the Wikipedia article)

The two has slightly different orders of the characteristics considered conventional:

Galen: χροιη (color), γλυκυ (sweet), πικρον (bitter), but in reality atoms and void.

Sextus: γλυκυ (sweet), πικρον (bitter), θερμον (hot), ψυχρον (cold), χροιη (color), but in reality atoms and void.

The Sextus citation sets up a nice dichotomy arrangement, but whose to say which is "correctly" quoting Democritus?