

The Twelve Fundamentals - Discussion on Lucretius Today Podcast

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[Don](#) what do you make of Erik Anderson's translation of U56 that renders ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΩΣΕΙΣ ΔΩΔΕΚΑ as "**Doctrine of the Elements (12 Books)**"? I just came across this, and after our discussion about the ΠΡΟΤΕΡΑ ΔΕΚΑΤΗ ΓΑΜΗΛΙΩΝΟΣ I am considering the possibility that the δώδεκα στοιχειώσεις refers to a collection of works on particle behavior called "**The Elements (i.e. Atoms)** in 12 Books", rather than one book called "**The Twelve Elementary Propositions**".

43. Doctrine of the Elements (12 Books)

U56

Scholium on Epicurus, Letter to Herodotus, by way of Laertius, Lives, X.44: He says below that atoms have no quality at all except shape, size, and weight, while in his twelve books of the Elements he states that color varies with the arrangement of the atoms.

<<http://epicurism.info/etexts/epicurea.html#2>>

XLIII ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΩΣΕΙΣ ΔΩΔΕΚΑ

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56 SCHOLIUM Epicuri ep. 1 44 τὸ δὲ χρῶμα παρὰ τὴν θέσιν τῶν ἀτόμων ἀλλάττεσθαι ἐν ταῖς δώδεκα Στοιχειώσεσι φησὶ.

Elsewhere in Book X of *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*, Diognes uses στοιχειώματα ("elementary principles", "elementary outline") and στοιχειώσιν ("first principles") to refer to "a digestible set of propositions about particles". Is στοιχειώσεις in this context referring to the "Element(al Propositions about particles)" or to "the Elements (which are particles)"? The difference could mean the difference between one work on theoretical propositions versus twelve books.

I continue to wonder, "why twelve?"