

The Twelve Fundamentals - Discussion on Lucretius Today Podcast

Post by “Eikadistes” of January 2, 2023 at 10:28 AM

I found a few discrepancies between the various attempts at reconstruction that can be points of exploration:

1. DeWitt identifies [a] *the infinite multitude of particles* and [b] *the infinite extent of space* as two different propositions, whereas every other reconstruction merges them into one. *What gives?*
2. Clay's list of 10 (of the 12) includes the proposition that [c] *the universe always was as it is and always will be*, but this proposition of a sort of temporal symmetry is not found in DeWitt's list. *What gives?*
3. Clay combines the ideas that [d.I] *atomic motion is uniform* and [d.II] *atomic motion is of two kinds* into one proposition. DeWitt separates them into two propositions. *What gives?*
4. In his *Epistle To Herodotus*, Epicurus contrasts particles that have recoiled to a distance with particles rebounding against other particles in a matrix of entangled particles. Elsewhere, he contrasts the recoiling due to collisions to the universal "fall" due to a particle's weight. Elsewhere, he includes the *clinamen*. I am reading either 3 or 4 kinds of motions: [I] the fall due to weight, [II] the *clinamen* due to internal motion, [III] the recoil due to collisions, and [III.b], the occasion when recoiling leads to particles being entangled in matrices that lead to the foundation of compounds and complex matter. How would Epicurus have arranged all of these ideas as propositions? *(And how many?)*
5. Why do the reconstructed lists specify two types of motion in one proposition, and yet introduce a third type of motion (the *clinamen*) as a separate proposition? Would Epicurus not have identified three kinds of motion?
6. Why does Clay omit (or not recognize) the proposition about [e] uniform motion?