

# "Epicurean Philosophy: An Introduction from the 'Garden of Athens'" edited by Christos Yapijakis

Post by "Don" of January 12, 2023 at 2:40 PM

## [Quote from Nate](#)

As Todd mentioned, #18 seems almost Platonic, and I do not find support for this proposition in Epicurus' texts. I may be missing something in translation, but at this point I do not accept this one.

I don't like the "levels" in 18. That doesn't sound right. One text that \*\*\*maybe\*\*\* gets at 18's sentiment is from the end of the epistle to Herodotus:

## Quote

81] "There is yet one more point to seize, namely, that the greatest anxiety of the human mind arises through the belief that the heavenly bodies are blessed and indestructible, and that at the same time they have volitions and actions and causality inconsistent with this belief ; and through expecting or apprehending some everlasting evil, either because of the myths, or because we are in dread of the mere insensibility of death, as if it had to do with us ; and through being reduced to this state not by conviction but by a certain irrational perversity, so that, if men do not set bounds to their terror, they endure as much or even more intense anxiety than the man whose views on these matters are quite vague. [82] But mental tranquillity (ἀταραξία ataraxia) means being released from all these troubles and cherishing a continual remembrance of the highest and most important truths.

[82] ...καὶ συνεχῆ μνήμην ἔχειν τῶν ὅλων καὶ κυριωτάτων.

... and having a constant memory...

τῶν ὅλων "of the whole"

(Interestingly τὸ ὅλον can also mean the universe, as in "the whole thing!"; differing from τὸ πᾶν, as implying a definite order)

... and κυριωτάτων of the highest/most important things.

(the superlative of κύριος kyrios as in κυριαὶ δοξαὶ Kyriai Doxai "Principle Doctrines")

I take that to mean we need to constantly remember that everything is reducible to atoms and void. Everything! If we remember that, we won't be fooled into looking for supernatural causes

and all the rest.