

Demetrius Lacon - Main Biography

Post by “Bryan” of November 26, 2023 at 1:58 AM

Thank you for talking this out with me. This is the only instance where I broke from the provided Greek text. I really tried to make διφυές work!

If we accept that it is οὐδὲν αἰσθητόν then we have greatly reduced our options. Lucretius does talk about eidola with double natures (centaurs) not corresponding to external reality, but I do not think that fits this context, because the gods exist but the centaurs do not.

(5.1240) But there were no centaurs. And animals
with a double nature, a dual body
assembled from limbs of different beings,

so that the powers in this and that part

could be sufficiently alike—such creatures
could not exist at any time.

But we need something that exists but is not visible by ἡ ἐπιβολή τῶν αἰσθήσεων (a focus of the senses) but is visible by ἡ ἐπιβολή τῆ διανοίᾳ (a focus with the mind)... which seems like another sign pointing to διαφανές.

Another argument is that it could be standing for that which has μακαριότητα and ἀφθαρσίαν, which is a technically true statement, and fits the above demand of only being visible by the mind...