

Sedley - Epicurus and The Transformation of Greek Wisdom

Post by "Joshua" of December 26, 2023 at 10:38 AM

I think the main point to take away from the Empedoclean comparison is that his two universal principles of Love and Strife can be loosely analogized to the Epicurean position that the accretion and dissolution of atomic compounds is an endless process, and that dissolution never gets the upper hand; Venus, representing the generative power of nature, is constantly innovating.

So while our world will eventually be destroyed (as alluded to by Ovid), elsewhere in the cosmos other worlds are continually being formed by the linking of atoms. There will be no 'end times' no ultimately ruinous catastrophe that destroys everything.

"The verses of sublime Lucretius will perish only on that day which consigns the world to destruction."