

General Notes On Fundamentals of Nature

Post by "Don" of June 13, 2024 at 11:12 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

This thread is for discussion of the list of twelve fundamentals ***such as suggested by DeWitt or Clay***

Just to be clear, if *anyone* - DeWitt, Clay, Cassius, me, etc., - wants to assemble twelve "fundamentals" they're welcome to do it. There is *zero fragmentary evidence* for any definitive list of "twelve fundamentals" that Epicurus wrote and circulated. The only place this occurs - the ONLY place as far as I can find - is the one in Diogenes Laertius (10.44): *colour varies with the arrangement of the atoms he states in his "Twelve Rudiments". Δώδεκα στοιχειώσεσί ; further, that they are not of any and every size ; at any rate no atom has ever been seen by our sense.*

I think any of us could go through the letter to Herodotus, or to Pythocles, or Lucretius, and pull out twelve random "fundamentals" in Epicurean physics... and it would be just as "authoritative" as the one DeWitt and Clay put together. We have no idea what was contained in Epicurus' "Twelve Rudiments" other than that he said:

1. color varies with the arrangement of the atoms
2. atoms aren't of any and every size
3. no atom has ever been seen by our senses

...according to Diogenes Laertius. And we don't know if those 3 were "rudiments/fundamentals" or if they were describing another fundamental or... anything.

This is a soapbox of mine that I insist on standing on every once in a while. *Finis* for now.