

Key Citations On Atoms, Void, and Emergence

Post by "Bryan" of February 2, 2025 at 1:00 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I gather you have to get to the combinations stage before you can properly start talking about accidents/events/qualities that are perceptible to us

Yes, I think the biggest challenge is the different terms we have in English. For the qualities you are referring to, Lucretius calls "events" and Epíkouros calls "symptoms."

αἱ ποιότητες	Qualities	ΠΟΙΟΤΗΤΕΣ <i>category state</i>
<i>Qualities are of two types:</i>		
τὰ συμπτώματα	<i>Contingent Qualities:</i>	ΣΥΜΠΤΩΜΑΤΑ <i>to fall together</i>
ĒVENTA	"SYMPTOMS"	
<i>Slavery or Freedom, Poverty or Riches, Peace or War</i>		
τὰ συμβεβηκότα	<i>Necessary Qualities:</i>	ΣΥΜΒΕΒΗΚΟΤΑ <i>to have walked together</i>
CONIUNCTA	"PROPERTIES"	
<i>Weight to stone, Heat to fire, Liquidity to water</i>		

In terms of whole natures: For the atoms, the only necessary qualities are shape, three-dimensionality, and weight. For the void, its only quality is to never be able to be subjected to any influence in any way.

αἱ ποιότητες περὶ τὰς ἀτόμους	qualities of the atoms	
τὸ σχῆμα τὰ σχήματα	shape	ΣΧΗΜΑ <i>holding [a form]</i>
τὸ μέγεθος τὰ μεγέθη	size / extension	ΜΕΓΕΘΟΣ <i>largeness</i>
τὸ βάρος τὰ βάρη	weight	ΒΑΡΟΣ <i>heavy</i>

All other qualities are emergent and the contingency or necessity of the qualities is from the perspective of the compounds that exhibit them.