

Epicurus' Prolepsis vs Heraclitus' Flux

Post by "Cassius" of July 3, 2025 at 10:04 AM

I've moved this over to a new thread so that it will be easier over time to explore this precise relationship. In the meantime pending a better source of quotes, here is what Wikipedia says:

Quote

Little is known of Heraclitus's life. He wrote a single work, only [fragments](#) of which have survived. Even in ancient times, his [paradoxical](#) philosophy, appreciation for [wordplay](#), and cryptic, oracular [epigrams](#) earned him the epithets "the dark" and "the obscure". He was considered arrogant and depressed, a [misanthrope](#) who was subject to [melancholia](#). Consequently, he became known as "the weeping philosopher" in contrast to the ancient [atomist](#) philosopher [Democritus](#), who was known as "the laughing philosopher".

The central ideas of Heraclitus's philosophy are the [unity of opposites](#) and the concept of [change](#). Heraclitus saw [harmony](#) and [justice](#) in [strife](#). He viewed the world as constantly in flux, always "becoming" but never "being". He expressed this in sayings like "Everything [flows](#)" (Greek: πάντα ῥεῖ, *panta rhei*) and "No man ever steps in the same river twice". This insistence upon change contrasts with that of the ancient philosopher [Parmenides](#), who believed in a reality of static "[being](#)".

...

Heraclitus is said to have produced a single work on [papyrus](#),^[a] which has not survived; however, over 100 fragments of this work survive in quotations by other authors.^[note 5] The title is unknown,^[20] but many later writers refer to this work, and works by other pre-Socratics, as *On Nature*.^{[21][a]}...

The opening lines are quoted by [Sextus Empiricus](#):

Of the *logos* being forever do men prove to be uncomprehending, both before they hear and once they have heard it. For although all things happen according to this *logos* they are like the unexperienced experiencing words and deeds such as I explain when I distinguish each thing according to its nature and declare how it is. Other men are unaware of what they do when they are awake just as they are forgetful of what they do when they are asleep.^[x]

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Also:

Diogenes Laërtius relays the story that the playwright [Euripides](#) gave [Socrates](#) a copy of Heraclitus's work and asked for his opinion. Socrates replied: "The part I understand is excellent, and so too is, I dare say, the part I do not understand; but it needs a [Delian diver](#) to get to the bottom of it."[\[38\]](#)