

VS63 - "Frugality Too Has A Limit..."

Post by "Bryan" of August 21, 2025 at 5:32 PM

Thank you Don, for all the excellent work above.

I agree that it would be best to follow the manuscript and make ἡ λεπτότης work. I wanted to look at the other instances of ἡ λεπτότης by Epicurus.

Epicurus, On Nature, Book 2, P.Herc. 1149 col. 7 (column 116sup):

...πρ[ὸς τοῖς στε]ρεμνίοις καὶ τὰς αὐτὰς διαστάσεις εἰς βάθος εἰληφός, πλὴν οὐχὶ τῷ ἐκ σωμαίων πολλῶν εἰς βάθος πε[ποιήσ]θα[ι, ἀλλὰ τῷ [τὴν] τοῦ [ἔνδ]οθεν [κενο]ῦ διά[στ]ασιν τὴν [α]ὐτὴν ἔχειν, λέγειν τολμῶσιν ἀλόγως πως ὡς διὰ τὴν λεπτότητα ῥαδίως δι[ὰ π]αντ[ὸς] πόρου [περ]αι[οῦν ἔδει], οὐδ' ἐν[θ]υ[μούμενοι...

...while [the film] even acquired the same dimensions in depth in relation to the hard objects [that were its source] – except with [the film] having been made deeply not by many bodies – but by having the same dimensions of the inner void. They unreasonably dare to say that, somehow, because of the subtlety [of the films], it would be necessary [for the films] to easily pass through every passageway, without [those who say this] reflecting that...

Epicurus, On Nature, Book 2, P.Herc. 993 col. 10 (column 111inf) | P.Herc. 1149 col. 5 (column 112sup)

...[ἀέ]ρα ἐξω[θεῖ]ν [δυνα]τὸν περαιοῖ, φα[ν]ερὸν ὡς καὶ τοῖς εἰδώλοις ὑπάρχει καὶ [α]ὕτη ἡ δύναμις· εἰ μὲν γὰρ τὸ στερέμιον μόνον ἠδύνατο τὰς | ἐξώσεις π[οιεῖσ]θαι, τὸ δ' εἶδωλον μή], ἦν ἂν κατὰ τὸν ἐξ[ω]στικὸν τρόπον τὰ στερέμνια μόνον ταχέως δύνασθαι φέρεσ[θ]αι, [τ]ὰ δὲ εἶδωλα μή, κατὰ γε τὸν ἐξωστ[ι]κό[ν], κα[τ]ὰ μέντοι τὸ περιλαμβανόμενον εὐθὺς ἐξ] ἐτ[ο]ίμου κενοῦ διὰ τ[ὰς] συνιζήσεις τὰς εἰς σ[τε]νότητα καὶ λεπτ[ό]τητα καὶ μι[κρ]ότη[τ]α...

...It has the force to eject air, [while] carrying [the air] over – and It is evident that this same Force also exists even in the films: for if only a hard Object had the force to produce ejections – but a Film did not [have the force to produce ejections] – then only hard Objects would have the force to be quickly carried in the ejecting way – but the films would not [have the force to be quickly carried], at least [not] in the ejecting [way]: however, in what is completely encompassed around immediately from the ready void, through the settlements into narrowness, subtlety, and minuteness...

Epicurus, On Nature, Book 2, P.Herc. 1149 col. 1 (column 93sup)

...περὶ δὲ τῆς κατὰ τὴν φορὰν ὑπαρχούσης ταχυτή[τος] νῦν λέγειν ἐπιχ[ειρ]ήσομεν· πρῶτον μὲν γὰρ ἡ λεπτότης, μακρὰν τῆς ἀπὸ τῶν αἰσθήσεων λεπτότητος ἀπέχουσα, ταχυτήτα τῶν εἰδώλων κατὰ τ[ῆ]ν [φ]ο[ρ]ὰν ἀνυπέρβλητον [ἐ]νδει[ί]κνυται...

...but We will venture to speak now about the speed that exists in the transmission [of the films]: first, their Subtleness – because it is far different than the subtlety [derived] from the senses – is indicated in the unsurpassable speed of the films in regards to their transmission...

Epicurus, On Nature, Book 2, P.Herc. 1010 columns 26, 27sup

...δὴ, φημί, β[λ]έ[π]οντες καὶ τῶν εἰδώλ[ω]ν ταῦτο τοῦτο ἐγχειροῦσιν [κ]ατ[α]δο[ξ]άζε[ιν] [διὰ τὴν ὁμ]ων[υ]μίαν τὴν δὴ τῆς λεπτότητος, {τὴν διαφορὰν αὐτῶν οὐ προσθεωρο[ο]ύντες [missing word] μ[ή]τε αὐτὰ μᾶλλον} τὰς διαδύσει[ς] δ[ύ]νασθαι ποιῆσ[θαι] διὰ τῶν στε[ρεμ]ν[ί]ων φύσε[ω]ν συνβέβη[κ]εν ἤπ[ερ] τὰς ἀντιτυπεῖς διὰ τῶν [χειρῶ]ν συγκρίσεις, ἂν μὴ [τ]ις τὸν τρόπον [τ]ῆς δ[ια]δύσεω[ς,] [δ]ν ἡμ[εῖς] εἰρήκαμεν, δ[ει]κνύη δυνάτ[ο]ν αὐτοῖς [ὑ]άρχ[ειν] ὄντα·}

Indeed, I say to these [people]: while they are still observing the films, they attempt to thoroughly judge this very thing [*i.e.*, *transfer of temperature*] through the sameness of names – in fact, They are not also envisioning the difference in the subtlety of these things. These [hot and cold particles] are not more able to make penetrations through the nature of hard objects than they [are able to] endure their rebounding through the compounds of [our] hands. unless Someone proves that this way of penetration, which We ourselves have described, is able to exist for those [films].

Lives 10.47b

εἶθ' ὅτι τὰ εἶδωλα ταῖς λεπτότησι ἀνυπερβλήτοις κέχρηται Οὐθὲν ἀντιμαρτυρεῖ τῶν φαινομένων

accordingly, Nothing among visible things contests that Films are endowed with unsurpassable subtlety

Lives 10.46a

καὶ μὴν καὶ, Τύποι ὁμοιοσχήμονεστοῖς στερεμνίοις εἰσί – λεπτότησι ἀπέχοντες μακρὰν τῶν φαινομένων:

and indeed, impressions exist in a similar shape as solid objects – although they are far different from what is apparent in [their] subtlety:

Plato (fl.c. 388 BCE), Republic, 7.523E

καὶ ὡσαύτως, πάχος καὶ λεπτότητα, ἢ μαλακότητα καὶ σκληρότητα, ἢ Ἄφή;

and likewise, does Touch [*perceive*] thickness and subtlety – or softness and hardness?

ἢ λεπτομέρεια is also worth considering:

Epicurus, On Nature, Book 14, P.Herc. 1148 col. 4 (column 37)

...ἐξέφευ[γε] τὴν ὑπὸ τοῦ ἀέρος στο[λ]ήν, λεπτομερές πα[ν]τελῶς αὐτὸ ὄν καὶ οὐ δυνάμενου ὑπὸ τοῦ ἀέρος ἐν ἄθροισμῶι λαμβάνεσθαι συναγωγὴν ἐπιδεχομένωι· οὔτε γὰρ ἐμβρεΐθεια ποσὴ τις στολὴν ἐπιδέχεται οὔτ[ε] λεπτομέρεια, ἀλλὰ συμμετρία τις ποσὴ καὶ τοῦ τοιούτου συντελεστικὴ γί[ν]εται· ἀλλὰ γὰρ καὶ τοῦτο γελοίως ἐκ τῆς φαντασίας ἀναλελόγισται καὶ οὐκ ἐπισταμένως τάφανές διὰ τοῦ φαινομένου συλλογί[ζ]εσθαι· καὶ ἡ γῆ δὲ π[ά]λι οὐ[κ] ἐ[κ] τοῦ] αὐτ[οῦ] τ[ρό]που ζύν[αται]...

...[*flowing upwards, the Form of flames*] flows out from the pressure beneath the air, being absolutely of a subtle composition itself, and not having the force beneath the air to be taken into an aggregation that permits a gathering. for neither does any measurable Density [*on its own*] permit pressure [to form] – nor does its subtle composition [*on its own, permit pressure to form*]: but some measurable Symmetry [*of density and subtlety*] does become contributive to such a [*formation of pressure as seen in flames*].

Epicurus, On Nature, Book 2, P.Herc. 1010 (columns 24fin, 25),

P.Herc. 993 col. 14 (column 117inf), P.Herc. 1149 col. 9 (column 118sup).

{οὐ[κ] ἔστι] συμ[φυῆ] τα[ῦ]τα] δὴ, φημί, τοῦ[του], ἀ]λλὰ [μόν]ον τ[ῶ]ν [ἐ]πιτηθ[ε]ίω]ν μὴ ἐχόντων μορφοειδῆ σχηματισμὸν ἕνα τ[ι]νὰ φύσε[ι], ἀλλὰ π[ο]λλοὺς καὶ [ἄ]λλο[υ]ς ἄλλως,} [λέ]γω δ' οἶον [πυρὸς καὶ] πνεύμα[τος καὶ τ]ῶν τοιουτο[τρόπω]ν· ταῦτα γάρ, ἐν ἄλλωι τρόπωι | τὴν λεπτομέρειαν ἔχ[ο]ντα ἤπερ ἐν ὧι αἱ ἕξωθεν μὲν [ἄ]λλη[λοῦ]χοι φύσεις, [ἔ]νδοθε[ν] δὲ πολύκενοι, δύ[να]νται τὰς [διεκδύσεις] διὰ τῶν στερεμνί[ω]ν φύσε[ω]ν λαμβάνειν·

I say, these [abilities of traveling through hard objects] are not inherent to [film], but only [inherent] to suitable things not having a certain singular shaped configuration by nature – rather, [these abilities are inherent to things having] many other [shapes] also. I mean, for instance, [particles] of fire and of [cool] wind and such types of things: for These [hot and cold particles], because they have a subtle composition in a different manner than that in which [their] external interconnected Natures [exist], but [with their nature also being] porous within, have the force to acquire their emergence through the natures of hard objects.