

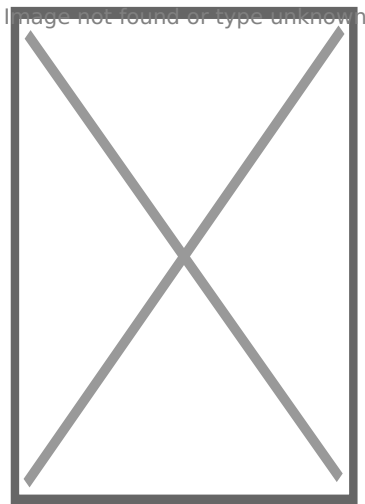
Did Democritus Think That Atoms Can Be Alive?

Post by “TauPhi” of August 25, 2025 at 7:08 PM

A good place to start would be *'Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker' (The Fragments of the Pre-Socratics)* by Hermann Diels (1903). This book would probably answer all your questions. Unfortunately, it's never been translated into English. The good news is we have the next best thing - 2 books by Kathleen Freeman:

- 1) *'The Pre-Socratic Philosophers; A Companion to Diels, Fragmente der Vorsokratiker' (1946)*
- 2) *'Ancilla to the pre-Socratic philosophers: a complete translation of the fragments in Diels, Fragmente der Vorsokratiker' (1948)*

1) is available on archive.org. If you have an hour or so to spare, read through pages 285-326. The amount of information, heavily supported by testimonia and actual fragments, is all you can wish for and then some more. The arrangement by subject-matter is also helpful to quickly see similarities and differences between Democritus and Epicurus.



[The Pre-socratic Philosophers : Kathleen Freeman : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

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2) is not available on archive.org but it's digitally available at 'sacred-texts' website (link below). The link will take you to the ancilla containing fragments of plethora of Pre-Socratics. It's the only place online I'm aware of where all Democritus' fragments are available in English.

[Ancilla to the Pre-Socratic Philosophers Index | Sacred Texts Archive](#)

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4372-did-democritus-think-that-atoms-can-be-alive/?postID=36955#post36955>

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