

## Creative Assistance Needed! "The Twelve Days of Class With Epicurus"

Other than atoms and void is excluded.

These examples will suffice to show that the Twelve Principles are treated as theorems to be demonstrated and that the logical procedure is not inductive or empirical. The fourth principle, however, that solid bodies are either compounds or simple, deserves mention both for its intrinsic importance and for the light it throws on the use of the epitome. In the Little Epitome it is briefly asserted that, if matter is not going

158

### THE NEW PHYSICS

to be annihilated, there must be ultimate bodies which are indivisible, unchangeable, and capable of surviving when compound bodies are broken up; they must be solid, that is, have no void in them. If the student desires further information, he is referred to the Big Epitome or the fourteenth and fifteenth of the books on Physics.<sup>8</sup>

It need hardly be added that the word *atom* means "indivisible" and is neuter or feminine, the nouns *stocheion*, "element," or *physis*, "existence," being supplied as the case requires; Epicurus does not himself use *ousia*, "existence" of the atom.

Footnote 8 is to Diogenes Laertius 10.40-41 which may not be of much help.