

# TO PAN: The Sum of All Things

Post by "Don" of March 9, 2020 at 11:47 PM

I was just reading the *Letter to Herodotus* in working on my personal Epicurean outline and realized I had forgotten how much I love the word Epicurus (and other ancient Greeks) used for the universe:

**τὸ πᾶν**

Transliterated, this is:

**τὸ pān** or simply "**to pan**"

This is the same "pan" as in "panhellenic" or "pantheism."

I've seen it translated as:

- the sum of all things
- the sum total of all things
- the universe as a whole
- the whole of being

... among others, sometimes using several of these in the same text for the same word: **τὸ πᾶν**. It takes all those English letters for 5 Greek ones.

I think one of the reasons it brings me so much pleasure is its simplicity. A definite article: **τὸ**, and a simple 3-letter word: **πᾶν**. I'm tempted to capitalize it, as in **To Pan**. Let the trumpets sound!

At its simplest, it could be translated **The All** or **The Whole**. It could also be translated as **The Everything Everywhere**. The word really encapsulates for me the elegance and succinct nature of the original classical Greek.

Sometimes it's the little joys that are the best 😊

Just had to share.