

## DIOGENES LAERTIUS

συμμενόντων τῶν ἐνεχθέντων ἐπὶ τὸ μέσον. αὐτὸν τε πάλιν τὸν περιέχοντα ὄλον ὑμένα αὐξεσθαι κατὰ τὴν ἐπέκκρισιν<sup>1</sup> τῶν ἔξωθεν σωματίων· δίνη τε φερόμενον αὐτὸν ὧν ἂν ἐπιψαύση, ταῦτα ἐπικτᾶσθαι. τούτων δέ τινα συμπλεκόμενα ποιεῖν σύστημα, τὸ μὲν πρῶτον κάθυγρον καὶ πηλώδες, ξηρανθέντα καὶ περιφερόμενα σὺν τῇ τοῦ ὄλου δίνῃ, εἰτ' ἐκπυρωθέντα τὴν τῶν ἀστέρων ἀποτελέσαι φύσιν.

- 33 Εἶναι δὲ τὸν τοῦ ἡλίου κύκλον ἐξώτατον, τὸν δὲ τῆς σελήνης προσγειότατον, τῶν ἄλλων μεταξὺ τούτων. καὶ πάντα μὲν τὰ ἀστρα πυροῦσθαι διὰ τὸ τάχος τῆς φορᾶς, τὸν δ' ἡλίον <καὶ> ὑπὸ τῶν ἀστέρων ἐκπυροῦσθαι· τὴν δὲ σελήνην τοῦ πυρὸς ὀλίγον μεταλαμβάνειν. ἐκλείπει δ' ἡλίον καὶ σελήνην <\* \* τὴν δὲ λόξωσιν τοῦ Ζωδιακοῦ γενέσθαι> τῷ κεκλίσθαι τὴν γῆν πρὸς μεσημβρίαν· τὰ δὲ πρὸς ἄρκτω αἰεὶ τε νίφεσθαι καὶ κατάψυχρα εἶναι καὶ πήγνυσθαι. καὶ τὸν μὲν ἡλίον ἐκλείπειν σπανίως, τὴν δὲ σελήνην συνεχές, διὰ τὸ ἀνίσους εἶναι τοὺς κύκλους αὐτῶν. εἶναί τε ὡσπερ γενέσεις κόσμου, οὕτω καὶ αὐξήσεις καὶ φθίσεις καὶ φθοράς, κατὰ τινα ἀνάγκην, ἣν ὁποία ἐστὶν <οὐ> διασαφεῖ.

### Κεφ. ζ'. ΔΗΜΟΚΡΙΤΟΣ

- 34 Δημόκριτος Ἠγησιστράτου, οἱ δὲ Ἀθηνοκρίτου, τινὲς Δαμασίππου Ἀβδηρίτης ἢ, ὡς ἔνιοι, Μιλήσιος. οὗτος μάγων τινῶν διήκουσε καὶ Χαλδαίων, Εἰρξου

<sup>1</sup> For ἐπέκρυσιν of codd. Rohde conjectured ἐπέκρυσιν, Heidel ἐπέκκρισιν.

\* So Diels; but see T. L. Heath, *Aristarchus* p. 122, note 3, who prefers to supply "the obliquity of the circles of the stars." Cf. also *Aët.* iii. 12. 1-2 (*Dox. Gr.* p. 377).

## IX. 32-34. LEUCIPPUS—DEMOCRITUS

In this way the earth is formed by portions brought to the centre coalescing. And again, even the outer shell grows larger by the influx of atoms from outside, and, as it is carried round in the vortex, adds to itself whatever atoms it touches. And of these some portions are locked together and form a mass, at first damp and miry, but, when they have dried and revolve with the universal vortex, they afterwards take fire and form the substance of the stars.

The orbit of the sun is the outermost, that of the moon nearest to the earth; the orbits of the other heavenly bodies lie between these two. All the stars are set on fire by the speed of their motion; the burning of the sun is also helped by the stars; the moon is only slightly kindled. The sun and the moon are eclipsed <when . . ., but the obliquity of the zodiacal circle is due <sup>a</sup>> to the inclination of the earth to the south; the regions of the north are always shrouded in mist, and are extremely cold and frozen. Eclipses of the sun are rare; eclipses of the moon constantly occur, and this because their orbits are unequal. As the world is born, so, too, it grows, decays and perishes, in virtue of some necessity, the nature of which he does <not> specify.

### CHAPTER 7. DEMOCRITUS (? 460-357 B.C.)

Democritus was the son of Hegesistratus, though some say of Athenocritus, and others again of Damasippus. He was a native of Abdera or, according to some, of Miletus. He was a pupil of *certain Magians and Chaldaeans*. For when King

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τοῦ βασιλέως τῷ πατρὶ αὐτοῦ ἐπιστάτας καταλιπόντος, ἡνίκα ἐξενίσθη παρ' αὐτῷ, καθά φησι καὶ Ἡρόδοτος· παρ' ὧν τὰ τε περὶ θεολογίας καὶ ἀστρολογίας ἔμαθεν ἔτι παῖς ὢν. ὕστερον δὲ Λευκίππῳ παρέβαλε καὶ Ἀναξαγόρα κατὰ τινας, ἔτεσιν ὧν αὐτοῦ νεώτερος τετταράκοντα. Φαβωρίνος δὲ φησιν ἐν Παντοδαπῇ ἱστορίᾳ λέγειν Δημόκριτον περὶ Ἀναξαγόρου ὡς οὐκ εἴησαν αὐτοῦ αἱ δόξαι αἱ τε περὶ ἡλίου καὶ σελήνης, ἀλλὰ ἀρχαῖαι, 35 τὸν δ' ὑφήρησθαι. διασύρειν τε αὐτοῦ τὰ περὶ τῆς διακοσμῆσεως καὶ τοῦ νοῦ, ἐχθρῶς ἔχοντα πρὸς αὐτὸν ὅτι δὴ μὴ προσήκατο αὐτόν. πῶς οὖν κατὰ τινας ἀκήκοεν αὐτοῦ;

Φησὶ δὲ Δημήτριος ἐν Ὀμωνύμοις καὶ Ἀντισθένης ἐν Διαδοχαῖς ἀποδημῆσαι αὐτὸν καὶ εἰς Αἴγυπτον πρὸς τοὺς ἱερέας γεωμετρίαν μαθησόμενον καὶ πρὸς Χαλδαίους εἰς τὴν Περσίδα καὶ εἰς τὴν Ἐρυθρὰν θάλασσαν γενέσθαι. τοῖς τε Γυμνοσοφισταῖς φασὶ τινες συμμίξαι αὐτὸν ἐν Ἰνδία καὶ εἰς Αἰθιοπίαν ἐλθεῖν. τρίτον τε ὄντα ἀδελφὸν νείμασθαι τὴν οὐσίαν· καὶ οἱ μὲν πλείους φασὶ τὴν ἐλάττω μοῖραν ἐλέσθαι τὴν ἐν ἀργυρίῳ, χρεῖαν ἔχοντα <διὰ τὸ> ἀποδημῆσαι τούτου κάκεινων 36 δολίως ὑποπτευσάντων. ὁ δὲ Δημήτριος ὑπὲρ ἑκατὸν τάλαντά φησιν εἶναι αὐτῷ τὸ μέρος, ἃ πάντα καταναλῶσαι. λέγει δ' ὅτι τοσοῦτον ἦν φιλόπονος ὥστε τοῦ περικήπου δωμάτιόν τι ἀποτεμόμενος κατάκλειστος ἦν· καί ποτε τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ πρὸς θυσίαν βοῶν ἀγαγόντος καὶ αὐτόθι προσδήσαντος, ἱκανὸν χρόνον μὴ γῶναι, ἕως αὐτὸν ἐκείνος

<sup>a</sup> Diels remarks that this is a free interpretation of Hdt. vii. 109, viii. 120.

## IX. 34-36. DEMOCRITUS

Xerxes was entertained by the father of Democritus he left men in charge, as, in fact, is stated by Herodotus<sup>a</sup>; and from these men, while still a boy, he learned theology and astronomy. Afterwards he met Leucippus and, according to some, Anaxagoras, being forty years younger than the latter. But Favorinus in his *Miscellaneous History* tells us that Democritus, speaking of Anaxagoras, declared that his views on the sun and the moon were not original but of great antiquity, and that he had simply stolen them. Democritus also pulled to pieces the views of Anaxagoras on cosmogony and on mind, having a spite against him, because Anaxagoras did not take to him. If this be so, how could he have been his pupil, as some suggest?

According to Demetrius in his book on *Men of the Same Name* and Antisthenes in his *Successions of Philosophers*, he travelled into Egypt to learn geometry from the priests, and he also went into Persia to visit the Chaldaeans as well as to the Red Sea. Some say that he associated with the Gymnosophists in India and went to Aethiopia. Also that, being the third son, he divided the family property. Most authorities will have it that he chose the smaller portion, which was in money, because he had need of this to pay the cost of travel; besides, his brothers were crafty enough to foresee that this would be his choice. Demetrius estimates his share at over 100 talents, the whole of which he spent. His industry, says the same author, was so great that he cut off a little room in the garden round the house and shut himself up there. One day his father brought an ox to sacrifice and tied it there, and he was not aware of it for a considerable time,

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διαναστήσας προφάσει τῆς θυσίας καὶ τὰ περὶ τὸν βοῦν διηγῆσατο. “δοκεῖ δέ,” φησί, “καὶ Ἀθήναζε ἔλθειν καὶ μὴ σπουδάσαι γνωσθῆναι, δόξης καταφρονῶν. καὶ εἰδέναι μὲν Σωκράτη, ἀγνοεῖσθαι δὲ ὑπ’ αὐτοῦ· ‘ἦλθον γάρ,’ φησὶν, ‘εἰς Ἀθήνας καὶ οὔτις με ἔγνωκεν.’”

37 “Εἶπερ οἱ Ἀντερασταὶ Πλάτωνός εἰσι,” φησὶ Θρασύλος, “οὗτος ἂν εἴη ὁ παραγεγόμενος ἀνώνυμος, τῶν περὶ Οἰνοπίδην καὶ Ἀναξαγόραν ἕτερος, ἐν τῇ πρὸς Σωκράτην ὀμιλίᾳ διαλεγόμενος περὶ φιλοσοφίας, ᾧ, φησὶν, ὡς πεντάθλῳ ἔοικεν ὁ φιλόσοφος. καὶ ἦν ὡς ἀληθῶς ἐν φιλοσοφίᾳ πένταθλος· τὰ γὰρ φυσικὰ καὶ τὰ ἠθικὰ <ἤσκητο>, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὰ μαθηματικὰ καὶ τοὺς ἐγκυκλίους λόγους καὶ περὶ τεχνῶν πᾶσαν εἶχεν ἐμπειρίαν.” τούτου ἐστὶ καὶ τὸ “λόγος ἔργου σκιή.” Δημήτριος δὲ ὁ Φαληρεὺς ἐν τῇ Σωκράτους ἀπολογία μὴδὲ ἐλθεῖν φησιν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἀθήνας. τοῦτο δὲ καὶ μείζον, εἶγε τοσαύτης πόλεως ὑπερεφρόνησεν, οὐκ ἐκ τόπου δόξαν λαβεῖν βουλόμενος, ἀλλὰ τόπῳ δόξαν περιθελῆναι προελόμενος.

38 Δῆλον δὲ καὶ τῶν συγγραμμάτων οἶος ἦν. “δοκεῖ δέ,” φησὶν ὁ Θρασύλος, “ζηλωτῆς γεγονέναι τῶν Πυθαγορικῶν· ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτοῦ Πυθαγόρου μέμνηται, θαυμάζων αὐτὸν ἐν τῷ ὁμωνύμῳ συγγράμματι. πάντα δὲ δοκεῖν παρὰ τούτου λαβεῖν καὶ αὐτοῦ δ’ ἂν ἀκηκοέναι, εἰ μὴ τὰ τῶν χρόνων ἐμάχετο.” πάντως μέντοι τῶν Πυθαγορικῶν τιнос

<sup>a</sup> *Rivals*, 132 A-c.

<sup>b</sup> § 46.

## IX. 36-38. DEMOCRITUS

until his father roused him to attend the sacrifice and told him about the ox. Demetrius goes on: "It would seem that he also went to Athens and was not anxious to be recognized, because he despised fame, and that while he knew of Socrates, he was not known to Socrates, his words being, 'I came to Athens and no one knew me.'"

"If the *Rivals* be the work of Plato," says Thrasylyus, "Democritus will be the unnamed character, different from Oenopides and Anaxagoras, who makes his appearance when conversation is going on with Socrates about philosophy, and to whom Socrates says that the philosopher is like the all-round athlete.<sup>a</sup> And truly Democritus was versed in every department of philosophy, for he had trained himself both in physics and in ethics, nay more, in mathematics and the routine subjects of education, and he was quite an expert in the arts." From him we have the saying, "Speech is the shadow of action." Demetrius of Phalerum in his *Defence of Socrates* affirms that he did not even visit Athens. This is to make the larger claim, namely, that he thought that great city beneath his notice, because he did not care to win fame from a place, but preferred himself to make a place famous.

His character can also be seen from his writings. "He would seem," says Thrasylyus, "to have been an admirer of the Pythagoreans. Moreover, he mentions Pythagoras himself, praising him in a work of his own entitled *Pythagoras*.<sup>b</sup> He seems to have taken all his ideas from him and, if chronology did not stand in the way, he might have been thought his pupil." Glaucus of Rhegium certainly says that

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ἀκοῦσαί φησιν αὐτὸν Γλαῦκος ὁ Ῥηγῖνος, κατὰ τοὺς αὐτοὺς χρόνους αὐτῷ γεγονώς. φησὶ δὲ καὶ Ἀπολλόδωρος ὁ Κυζικηνὸς Φιλολάῳ αὐτὸν συγγεγονέναι.

Ἦσκει δέ, φησὶν ὁ Ἀντισθένης, καὶ ποικίλως δοκιμάζειν τὰς φαντασίας, ἐρημάζων ἐνίοτε καὶ  
 39 τοῖς τάφοις ἐνδιατρίβων. ἐλθόντα δὴ φησιν αὐτὸν ἐκ τῆς ἀποδημίας ταπεινότατα διάγειν, ἅτε πᾶσαν τὴν οὐσίαν καταναλωκότα· τρέφεσθαι τε διὰ τὴν ἀπορίαν ἀπὸ τὰδελεφοῦ Δαμάσου. ὡς δὲ προειπών τινα τῶν μελλόντων εὐδοκίμησε, λοιπὸν ἐνθέου δόξης παρὰ τοῖς πλείστοις ἠξιώθη. νόμου δ' ὄντος τὸν ἀναλώσαντα τὴν πατρίαν οὐσίαν μὴ ἀξιοῦσθαι ταφῆς ἐν τῇ πατρίδι, φησὶν ὁ Ἀντισθένης συνέντα, μὴ ὑπεύθυνος γενηθεῖη πρὸς τινων φθονούντων καὶ συκοφαντούντων, ἀναγνῶναι αὐτοῖς τὸν Μέγαν διάκοσμον, ὃς ἀπάντων αὐτοῦ τῶν συγγραμμάτων προέχει· καὶ πεντακοσίοις ταλάντοις τιμηθῆναι· μὴ μόνον δέ, ἀλλὰ καὶ χαλκαῖς εἰκόσι·  
 40 ὑπὲρ τὰ ἑκατὸν ἔτη. ὁ δὲ Δημήτριος τοὺς συγγενεάς αὐτοῦ φησιν ἀναγνῶναι τὸν Μέγαν διάκοσμον, ὃν μόνον ἑκατὸν ταλάντων τιμηθῆναι. ταῦτά δὲ καὶ Ἰππόβοτος φησιν.

Ἀριστοξένος δ' ἐν τοῖς Ἱστορικοῖς ὑπομνήμασι φησι Πλάτωνα θελήσαι συμφλέξει τὰ Δημοκρίτου συγγράμματα, ὅποσα ἐδυνήθη συναγαγεῖν, Ἀμύκλαν

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<sup>a</sup> ὡς δὲ προειπών . . . ἠξιώθη. This sentence in *oratio recta*, interrupting the extract from Antisthenes, finds its counterpart in the stories attributing to Democritus the power of forecasting the weather or the seasons, on the

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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