



CHAPTER XLI

Democritus (460 - 370 B.C)

The Atom

The Void and the plenum are the basis of the cosmos. Empty space and atoms are eternal. Also eternal is the movement of atoms. The whirlwind of atoms declares that the Universe is mechanistic. Like atoms attract while unlike atoms repel.

Leucippus and Democritus refer to an example in nature to confirm the attraction of beings to each other: "Birds that belong to the same species are together. Pigeons fly and live with pigeons, horses with horses, lions with lions."

The same thing happens in the subatomic world. If we put various seeds in a sieve and we mix them, in the shuffle of the sieve we will observe that wheat goes with wheat and corn with corn. In another example, if we observe the wave that breaks on the shore, we will confirm that long pebbles go with long pebbles and round ones with round.

What invincible hidden force penetrates all beings of the natural world and connects them with each other? Under what unknown laws does life follow the discipline of a Secret Program in the entire Universe?

DEMOCRITUS

The Atomic philosophy of Leucippus and Democritus explains in its own way the creation of the world.

The atoms that swirl in boundless space are infinite. Some atoms approach others and immediately separate from one another. Certain other atoms that present symmetries in form and in their position link up with each other, as if united by a secret affinity.

Thus complexes are formed by atoms which, pressured by others, whirl around each other, attracting towards their position more and more clusters of atoms.

In this way, slowly-slowly a mass is formed that continuously grows larger. When, in the interior of the mass, the complexes of atoms present varieties and differences that render impossible their balanced rotation, then they split into two groups, within which similar atoms go together.

The more perfect atoms are repelled toward the outer surface, are caught up in the maelstrom of the whirl and form the heavenly dome, which the atomist philosophers conceive of as a perfect sphere.

Other sections of this mass, attracted from the periphery, form the constellations, which with the breathtaking speed of their swirl, have ignited. The heaviest and bulkiest materials from the mass in the swirling substance are attracted toward the center of the sphere and create the Earth.

Leucippus and Democritus place the Earth in the center of the Heavenly Sphere.

Perhaps the science of the future will show that in reality, inasmuch as the entire Universe consists of Mental Material, its brain is its center.

In this mental center, the Earth plays the role of the wet-nurse of intelligence, of the universal intellect, with principal representative of the entire Creation being Man himself.

Democritus teaches.

