AT HERACLITUS

We shall present here some observations on the expressions of Heraclitus: "υγρή ψυχή" and "αδη ψυχή".

Heraclitus prefers the "αδη ψυχή" instead of "υγρή ψυχή" because the dampness results to the annihilation of "ψυχή" since it is his basic assumption that "ψυχή" is "Fire", according to his "Κοσμογόνος 'Αρχή", and it is known that humidity can extinguish "Fire" that is to say can annihilate "ψυχή" and hence the mind (πνεύμα = ψυχή). So Heraclitus explains the phenomenon of the drunkard: "'Ανήρ δοκήσαν μεθυσθείς, ἀγεται υπό παιδός ἀνήβου σφαλλόμενος, οὐκ ἐπαιτῶν ὠκή βαίνει, υγρήν τὴν ψυχὴν ἐχειν" (Frg. 117 D—K) and so he safely concludes that the "αδη ψυχή σοφωτάτη καὶ ἀρίστη" (Frg. 118 D—K).

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