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AT HERACLITUS

We shall present here some observations on the expressions of Heraclitus: „ὕγρη ψυχή“ and „αὔη ψυχή“.

Heraclitus prefers the „αὔη ψυχή“ instead of „ὕγρη ψυχή“ because the dampness results to the annihilation of „ψυχή“ since it is his basic assumption that „ψυχή“ is „Fire“, according to his „Κοσμογόνος Ἄρχή“, and it is known that humidity can extinguish „Fire“ that is to say can annihilate „ψυχή“ and hence the mind (πνεῦμα = ψυχή). So Heraclitus explains the phenomenon of the drunkard: „Ἄνθρωπος ὀκότες μεθυσθεῖν, ἄγεται ὑπὸ παιδός ἀνήβου σφαλλόμενος, οὐκ ἐπαῖτων ὄκη βραίνει, ὕγρην τὴν ψυχὴν ἔχων“ (Frg. 117 D—K) and so he safely concludes that the „αὔη ψυχή σοφωτάτη καὶ ἀρίστη“ (Frg. 118 D—K).

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