

Motion – an underlying principle in the development of metaphysics?

Aristotle's concept of the "unmoved mover" as the last principle of everything marks a peak in the development of metaphysics in ancient Greek philosophy. But even before Aristotle we can find, contrary to his own interpretation, very detailed and elaborated views on the causes of motion and change in metaphysical contexts. We can trace back these concepts till the beginning of philosophy in Greece itself with the so-called "pre-Socratics". In the remaining sources and fragments we find a much more metaphysical reception and dealing with motion and its causes as a "last principle" than Aristotle wants to admit. This raises the question if these early philosophers not only had a physical understanding of the problem of motion, but also received it as an everlasting and underlying principle in the *kosmos* they wanted to explain.

In my presentation I would like to argue that the "unmoved mover" of Aristotle is just the climax of dealing with the problem of motion in ancient Greek philosophy and that its reception as an underlying principle, maybe even as a metaphysical power itself, has always been part of the construction of metaphysical concepts since the first days of philosophy in Ancient Greece. Relying on this, I would like to show that changing our view on motion and its reception not only as a physical, but as an existential question to the pre-Socratic philosophers, can provide great potential for a better understanding of Ancient Greek Philosophy in particular and social-intellectual processes in the Ancient Greek Society in general.