

are atoms; nothing that exists can be destroyed; change takes place in virtue of the combination or separation of atoms. Atoms are always in motion and are endless in number and variety; they move about in space; they press upon one another in every direction; they assume eddying movements which give origin to new worlds: but everything happens according to a definite sequence of law, and nothing by chance. Even the soul consists of very finely divided atoms which permeate the body and call forth the phenomena of life.

In opposition to the materialistic view of the atomic philosophy, Anaxagoras of Clazomenæ (born 501 B.C.) regarded the soul (*νοῦς*) as in itself a conscious, moving force. In his cosmic philosophy he supposes an original chaos in which a circular movement gives place to a universe, and at the same time effects a differentiation of ether, air, and water. The earth rises from the water, and receives seeds from the air which develop into living plants and animals. The earth is poised as a cylinder in the centre of the whole universe, and the stars move round it.

As the influence of the Sophists and Platonic philosophy came more into ascendancy, it tended to elevate dialectic and speculative methods and to depreciate the investigation of natural phenomena. Cultivated and gifted as the Athenians of this epoch were, natural science owes but a small debt to them.

Plato (427 B.C.), in his *Cosmology*, is a follower partly of Heraclitus and partly of Anaxagoras. According to Plato, the universe is the production of divine intelligence and of the necessary development of nature. The form of the whole universe is spherical; in the centre lies the earth as a motionless sphere; around it are the sun and the planets, and the fixed stars occupy the outermost circle. All the heavenly bodies are inhabited; the atoms composing them are indivisible, and unite along definite limiting surfaces; the universe itself is unchangeable and indestructible.

An interesting account is given in the "*Timæus*" of a submerged Atlantic continent (*Atlantis*) on the other side of the Pillars of Hercules (*Gibraltar*). The idea of such a submerged continent has again received credence in recent geological researches. In Plato's account *Atlantis* was larger than *Asia* and *Libya* together, it had been inhabited 9000 years