

GREEK VIEWS OF MATTER , MOTION AND THE UNIVERSE

THREE TYPES OF TERRESTRIAL MOTION CONSIDERED BY THE GREEKS

- Universe is stationary and is divided into two regions, celestial and terrestrial

Terrestrial region- all things on earth that are made up of the four elements: air, water, earth and fire

- driven by force or the desire of the four elements to seek perfection and return to their natural places
- any kind of change happening in an object is a process of becoming something new
- acquiring some new properties while losing other properties

Celestial region- all heavenly bodies beyond the moon

- sun, stars and other planets and are made up of the 5th substance called quintessence

- for greeks, motion is not about what a person is doing to make a table
- motion is what happens to the wood as it becomes a table

MOTION - potentiality to actuality

TYPES OF TERRESTRIAL MOTION

1. Quality

- known as alteration
- new substance may be formed
- color and chemical properties may change

EX: wood to coal, rusting of metals, weathering of rocks

2. Quantity

- known as diminution or growth
- causes an increase or decrease in the substance