Record Nr. UNINA9910164928103321

Autore Marmodoro Anna

Titolo Everything in everything: Anaxagoras's metaphysics / / Anna

Marmodoro

New York, NY:,: Oxford University Press,, 2017 Pubbl/distr/stampa

ISBN 0-19-066803-2

0-19-061199-5 0-19-061198-7

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (225 pages)

Disciplina 182.8

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Previously issued in print: 2017. Note generali

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Sommario/riassunto Anaxagoras of Clazomenae (fifth century BCE) is best known for his

> stance that there is a share of everything in everything. He puts forward this theory of extreme mixture as a solution to the problem of change that he and his contemporaries inherited from Parmenides: that what is cannot come from what is not (and vice versa). For Anaxagoras the fundamental elements of reality are the opposites (hot, cold, wet, dry, etc.), which are instances of physical causal powers. Everything there is in the universe (except nous) derives from the composition of the opposites into (phenomenologically emergent) wholes. Every type of whole contains in different proportions every type of opposite. The opposites' extreme mixture is made possible by their omnipresence and hence compresence in the universe. This in turn is facilitated by the fact that the opposites exist as unlimitedly divided; each of their instances approaches zero extension. Thus, they can be scattered everywhere and be in everything. By positing that the ultimate constituents of the universe exist as unlimitedly divided, Anaxagoras is

the first gunk-lover in the history of metaphysics.

He has a unique conception of gunk and a unique power ontology: power gunk. The book investigates the nature of power gunk and the explanatory utility of the concept for Anaxagoras for his theory of

extreme mixture. While most defenders of an atomless universe nowadays argue for material gunk as a conceptual possibility (only), Anaxagoras argues for power gunk as the ontology of nature.