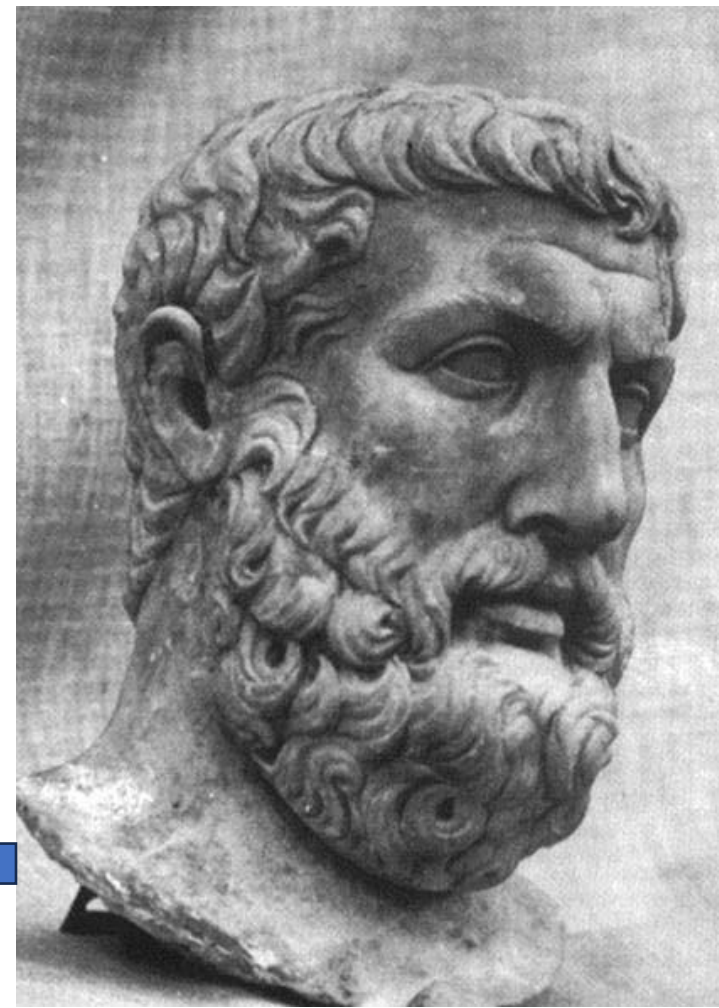


PARAMENIDES OF ELEA

Biography

- Born about 515 BCE in Italy
- Died about 460 BCE
- Friend and student of Zeno, associate of Socrates and Plato



Philosophy (major Ideas)

Many things which appear to exist are merely a single eternal reality called “Being”

“Being” cannot come from not-being or be reduced to not-being
↳ In denying that there can be any change, he believed that everything is part of a single unified and unchanging whole. All apparent change is merely illusion

He recognized that a contrast must be made in philosophy between “the way of truth” (concerning the oneness and changelessness of Being) and “the way of seeming” (concerning our perception of change).

Parmenides took the view that **nothing changes in reality; only our senses convey the appearance of change.**

↳ Another philosopher – Heraclitus – by contrast, thought that everything changes all the time, and that “we step and do not step into the same river,” for new waters flow ever about us.

Everything is one, and change and motion is just an illusion

↳ He believed that everything was a part of a larger whole. His stance on **motion being impossible relies on his belief that time is constructed of moments.** The illusion of motion was just a bunch of moments put together.

ISSUES THIS RAISES: Parmenides is posing constraints on language and on thought, a limit on what can be spoken of or thought about: we cannot speak or think about things that are not (real), that do not exist. That means that much of what goes by the name of “speaking” or “thought” really won't count as such for Parmenides.

Everything is what it is – complete and immobile – and can never become what it is not