



Philosophy of Literature



HERACLITUS

Heraclitus

- A Pre-Socratic Greek philosopher from Ephesus (in modern Turkey)
- Ephesian School of philosophy
- Active around 500 BCE
- First Western philosopher to go beyond physical theory in search of metaphysical foundations

HOW CAN YOU HIDE
FROM WHAT
NEVER GOES AWAY?

HERACLITUS



Heraclitus

- Written a single book, "*On Nature*"
- Divided into three discourses,
 - a. on the universe
 - b. on politics and
 - c. on theology

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Heraclitus

Best known for his doctrines of

- Universal Flux
- Unity of opposites
- Fire is the basic material of the world

HOW CAN YOU HIDE
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ALL IS FLUX.

HERACLITUS

Universal Flux

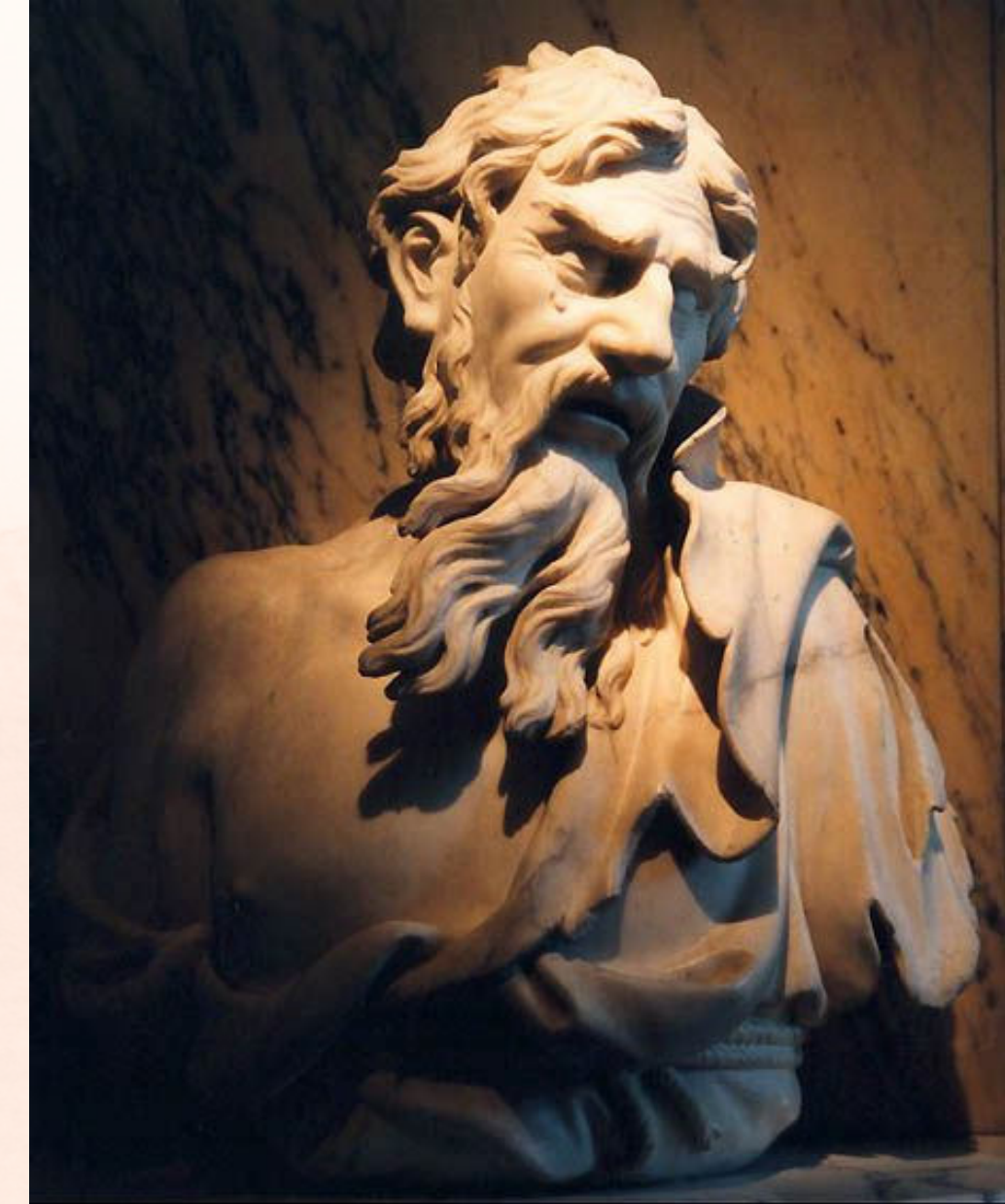
All things pass and nothing stays

Uses the image of a flowing river



Universal Flux

- Subtle and profound
- not that all things are changing so that we cannot encounter them twice
- Some things stay the same only by changing
- Constancy and change are not opposed but inextricably connected



Universal Flux

Heraclitus believes in flux, but not as destructive of constancy; rather it is, paradoxically, a necessary condition of constancy



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The Unity of Opposites

- Things are both the same and not the same over time
- Contraries are the same by virtue of constituting a system of connections
- Interconnectedness of contrary states in life
- Opposites are a reality, and their interconnections are real

