

Abstract.

A fractal journey. Towards a symbolic phenomenology of the atomistic revolt.

We propose the construction of a particular narration of atomism since its beginning with Democritus (460 BC.-370 BC.) until this day. Not intending to be thoroughgoing with such a wide history but aiming nevertheless to be rigorous, we open a path through the long life of this cosmological drive running in every field of science and philosophy by using a method that we call "symbolic phenomenology", in reference to our principles and themes, our limits and possibilities, to the gestures of our analyzes. The four Elements, the numbers, the u-topia, the earth and the *expeausition* (*Skin-Show*, Nancy, 2000) are consequently developed as symbols to gradually fill the notion of an atom whose meaning in the usual language has been deprived of its past and of the discontinuity that we identify as its source. By this intuitions we go forward and we discover what it could mean to have an atomistic approach to the world and which the last sprouts of this approach are: Emmanuel Levinas and Jean-Luc Nancy. Both philosophers being in a constellation that indicates us a direction, a new philosophical possibility: The phenomenology of touch. **Key words:** atomism, symbolic phenomenology, fractality, phenomenology of touch, expeausition.