

THE CONCEPT OF CAUSALITY IN ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY

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One might claim that the issue of causality in ancient Greek philosophy was one of the fundamental sources of the idea of European rationality. For both Greek philosophy and science have its basis in the question of a cause. That is why Aristotle says, while commenting on the history of philosophy, that cognition and wisdom are identical with the cognition of prime causes and principles (Met. Book A).

In my talk I would like to present the position of Greek philosophers on the issues of cause and causality. In their conceptions three issues are the most salient: the origin of cosmos, the sources of cosmic order, and the determinants and the purpose of the events happening in nature. The following question seems to be interesting in the context of these issues: Is it still worth referring to Greek intuitions?