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THE IDEA OF CIRCULAR THOUGHT
IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF PARMENIDES OF ELEA (DK 28 B 5)

Summary

The article deals with the Greek idea of circular thought and especially with the question of its presence and meaning in the philosophy of Parmenides of Elea. A new interpretation of the fragment DK 28 B 5, which is crucial to this issue, is proposed. It is suggested that the circularity of thought refers to the deductive mode of the arguments in the “Aletheia” and to the proleptic character of some of the Parmenidean statements. Both fragment B 5 (to be placed probably at the beginning of the deduction of the “Aletheia”) and B 8.50-51 (the end of the “Aletheia”) may be successfully interpreted on the basis of this idea. The proposed interpretation makes clear why the circularity of thought does not oppose the linearity of the reasoning and why the logical character of cognition does not contradict its immediacy for Parmenides.

Summarised and translated by Maria Marcinkowska-Rosół

Słowa kluczowe: Parmenides, myśl, koło, poznanie, dedukcja.

Key words: Parmenides, circular thought, epistemology, deduction.

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