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PLUTARCHE’S SCIENCE OF NATURAL PROBLEMS

A STUDY WITH COMMENTARY ON QUÆSTIONES NATURALES

By

MICHEIL MEEUSEN

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ἐγώ νέος ὃν θαυμαστῶς ὡς ἐπεθύμησα ταύτης τῆς σοφίας ἣν δὴ καλοῦσι περὶ φύσεως ἱστορίαν ὑπερήφανος γάρ μοι ἐδόκει εἶναι, εἰδέναι τὰς αἰτίας ἑκάστου, διὰ τί γίγνεται ἑκάστον καὶ διὰ τί ἀπόλλυται καὶ διὰ τί ἔστι.

When I was young, I was tremendously eager for the kind of wisdom which they call investigation of nature. I thought it was a glorious thing to know the causes of everything, why each thing comes into being and why it perishes and why it exists.

Pl., Phd. 96a