

ΠΕΡΙ ΜΑΚΡΟΒΙΟΤΗΤΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΒΡΑΧΥΒΙΟΤΗΤΟΣ

464 b I. Περὶ δὲ τοῦ τὰ μὲν εἶναι μακρόβια τῶν ζώων
20 τὰ δὲ βραχύβια, καὶ περὶ ζωῆς ὅλως μήκους καὶ
βραχύτητος ἐπισκεπτέον τὰς αἰτίας. ἀρχὴ δὲ τῆς
σκέψεως ἀναγκαῖα πρῶτον ἐκ τοῦ διαπορῆσαι περὶ
αὐτῶν. οὐ γάρ ἐστι δῆλον πότερον ἕτερον ἢ τὸ
25 εἶναι μακρόβια τὰ δὲ βραχύβια· καὶ γὰρ τῶν φυτῶν
τὰ μὲν ἐπέτειον τὰ δὲ πολυχρόνιον ἔχει τὴν ζωὴν.
ἔτι δὲ πότερον ταῦτα μακρόβια καὶ τὴν φύσιν
ὑγιεινὰ τῶν φύσει συνεστῶτων, ἢ κεχώρισται καὶ
τὸ βραχύβιον καὶ τὸ νοσῶδες, ἢ κατ' ἐνίας μὲν
30 τοῖς βραχυβίοις, κατ' ἐνίας δ' οὐδὲν κωλύει νοσώ-
δεις εἶναι μακροβίους ὄντας.

Περὶ μὲν οὖν ὕπνου καὶ ἐγρηγόρσεως εἴρηται
πρότερον, περὶ δὲ ζωῆς καὶ θανάτου λεκτέον
ὑστερον, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ περὶ νόσου καὶ ὑγείας,
465 a ὅσον ἐπιβάλλει τῇ φυσικῇ φιλοσοφίᾳ· νῦν δὲ περὶ
τῆς αἰτίας τοῦ τὰ μὲν εἶναι μακρόβια τὰ δὲ βραχύ-
βια, καθάπερ εἴρηται πρότερον, θεωρητέον. ἐστὶ
δ' ἔχοντα τὴν διαφορὰν ταύτην ὅλα τε πρὸς ὅλα
394

ON LENGTH AND SHORTNESS OF LIFE

OUR task is now to consider the reasons why ^{Connexion} some living creatures are long-lived and others short- ^{between} lived, and generally to inquire into the causes of ^{health and} length and shortness of life. The necessary starting- ^{longevity.} point of our inquiry is a statement of the difficulties that arise on the subject. For it is not clear whether the reason why some animals and plants are long-lived, and others short-lived, is the same in all cases or different. For some plants last only for one year, while others live for a long time. Secondly, are longevity and good health the same thing in the case of all natural structures, or are short life and disease unconnected, or again in some diseases do disease and short life go together, while in others there is nothing to prevent the diseased from being also long-lived?

We have previously discussed sleep and the waking ^{Generic and} state, and later on we must speak of life and death, and ^{specific} similarly of disease and health, as far as they appertain ^{differences.} to physical philosophy. But our present inquiry, as I have said before, is concerned with the reasons why some living things live long, and some are short-lived. This difference is found not only between genera as