

**The Structure of Matter: Was Isidore of Seville an Atomist? (abstract)**

A very important work from the early Middle Ages, the *Etymologiarum sive Originum Libri XX* of St. Isidore, bishop of Seville, contains an entire chapter about the atoms. The *Etymologies* may not be an ingenious work about cosmology or any other issue but it is my firm belief that the things described there are much more than randomly selected information taken from ancient authorities and thus the appearance of atoms in it is also something else than random selection from previous works.

However, in modern research dealing with atomism only little attention has been paid to Isidore's works. In this essay it is shown that Isidore of Seville was an atomist in a sense, although he most likely imagined the world as made up of the four elements.

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