

# Versions of the Text of Lucretius - 1743 Daniel Browne Edition - Unknown Translator

Post by "Cassius" of May 21, 2018 at 6:44 PM

Poster: Lucretius uses "Venus" usually to refer to sexual desire, by which "nothing can rise to light" etc. The more literal occurrence when Venus kisses Mars may be an illusion to a statue, well known at the time but lost now. I'd say the same play is occurring with caelum, "heavens" as in the sky... ..unless the godly imagery is just too tempting. We are talking about a poet, after all! He let himself play here more than usual.

Cassius: Nocks, as you glance through this edition you know I am interested in any comment you have, as I know Lucretius is one of your favorite topics. The Latin text should not be anything new, but the choice of a translator is always interesting (at least to me) because I think the degree someone has immersed himself in Latin will tell the tale on how well the translation follows the meaning. This author is fast becoming one of my favorites, as I see from later in book one that he pushes away from using "accidents" to describe the non-essential attributes of bodies, and instead calls them "events" -- a choice dear to my heart



(As you know I've always considered "accidents" to be misleading, as implying "randomness," which I don't think is acceptable at all - "event" in my view is much better, implying only that it is a happening that occurs due to the particular context, but not at "random.")

