

The blazing battlements of the world

Post by "Don" of July 17, 2021 at 11:13 AM

Interesting catch!

The Leonard translation at Perseus has: "The flaming ramparts of the world."

In the Loeb Classics translation, there's a note: "Lucretius refers to the fiery belt around our world (see also 2.1144, 5.454) but also is picturing Epicurus as a general successfully storming the walls and setting them ablaze."

Here's the Latin line:

processit longe flammantia moenia mundi

I'm wondering if the "flammantia moenia mundi" (the flaming/burning walls of the world) is simply a poetic way of describing the heavens with all their stars that surrounds our "world" and separates it from the rest of the universe.