

Episode Eighty-One - Development of the Arts - The End of Book Five

Post by “Joshua” of July 31, 2021 at 10:50 PM

Quote

I think the limit "boundary-stone" idea and the limit "end/purpose" idea are not as far apart as might seem.

Lucretius does use the exact phrase "deep-set boundary stone" (*alte terminus haerens*, I think) in Book I.

There's something to all of this, but I haven't been able to crack it. I've written here before about the English and Colonial practice of [Beating the Bounds](#). The ritual is thought to have had a Roman origin.

So a boundary stone is a definer of limits; but it is also (or was) the subject of ceremony and ritual, a focal point of collective memory, something agreed upon and quite literally "settled"...

I don't know. It's uncanny how often the words 'borders' and 'boundaries' and 'limits' come up in Lucretius. But I don't have a satisfactory resolution.