

# Welcome Philia!

**Post by "Joshua" of August 6, 2021 at 8:43 PM**

Welcome Philia! Took a detour through Buddhism myself, by way of the New England Transcendentalists (mostly Thoreau) and their obsession with Eastern quasi-profoundities.

When I could not reconcile the attitude of Western Zen or the claims of Secular Buddhism with the plain reading of the sutras, especially on the question of Rebirth, I began to realize I had tarried too long "East of Suez" (metaphorically speaking). I needed to find my way home. It was Lucretius who brought me back, and Stephen Greenblatt; but above all Lucretius.

But if you lag or shrink, even a little,  
Memmius, this I promise you for sure:  
My honeyed tongue from my rich heart will pour  
Such inexhaustible potions from its sources  
That slow old age, I fear, will penetrate  
Our limbs, loosen our life-bonds, and the deluge  
Of my argument in verse still flood your ears  
Over **one item only**.