

Text And Reference Links - Lucretius Today Podcast

Post by "Cassius" of June 16, 2022 at 8:07 PM

I AM GLAD YOU ASKED THAT [Don](#) ! 😊

I did mention Perseus at this page at the very top:
<https://epicuruscollege.com/coursematerial/Map-Lucretius-DRN/>

But i have to say I am prejudiced against the Leonard edition because it's the first one I tried to read, for years, and always found it too "flowery" (maybe "poetic" is the word).

And I confess further you have hit a raw nerve. For some reason I cannot get out of my mind an unforgiveable choice of words that I always choke over, right at the beginning of Book One:

"For thee the daedal Earth bears scented flowers...."

That just does it for me for the whole translation. With ALL the intricacy of the Roman allusions, with ALL the difficulty of the text, with ALL the difficulty of the subject matter, do we have to dredge up an obscure word like DAEDAL which no one translator uses?

BROWN: Thee, Goddess, Thee the winds avoid; the clouds fly Thee and Thy approach. With various art the Earth, for Thee, affords her sweetest flowers;

MUNRO: Before thee, goddess, flee the winds, the clouds of heaven, before thee and thy advent; for thee earth, manifold in works, puts forth sweet-smelling flowers...

BAILEY: Thou, goddess, thou dost turn to flight the winds and the clouds of heaven, thou at thy coming; for thee earth, the quaint artificer, puts forth her sweet-scented flowers; for thee the levels of ocean smile, and the sky,

MARTIN FERGUSON SMITH: You, goddess, at your coming hush the winds and scatter the clouds; for you the creative earth thrusts up fragrant flowers; for you the smooth stretches of the ocean smile, and the sky, tranquil now, is flooded with effulgent light.

HUMPHRIES: All things conceived, all things that face the light

In their bright visit, the grain-bearing fields,

The marinered oceans, where the wind and cloud

Are quiet in your presence - all proclaim

Your gift, without which they are nothingness.

For you that sweet artificer, the earth,

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1299-text-and-reference-links-lucretius-today-podcast/?postID=18409#post18409>

Submits her flowers, and for you the deep

Of ocean smiles, and the calm heaven shines

With shoreless light.

I can handle "quaint artificer," I can handle "sweet artificer," I can handle "manifold in works" and all the rest.

But darn it do NOT ask me to go looking up the meaning of some obscure ENGLISH word just because you want to make your version of Lucretius sound poetic!

And if already in the first paragraph I can't trust Leonard to play fair with me, then I'm sorry, I can't ask anyone else to wade through that nonsense.

I will admit only that in recent years since I've found that he's at Perseus I sometimes am willing to use him now, but I can't do it with confidence because I never know when another of those darn DAEDALS is going to turn up!

