

# Favorite Translation of Lucretius

Post by "Don" of January 24, 2023 at 7:32 PM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

I wish I could downvote Leonard 😊

LOL! I hear you. His language is stilted and Victorian at best.

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

Don, especially given your interest in the translation details -- am I missing something here in Leonard vs the others? And Leonard is the one Perseus uses too, if I recall correctly.

Correct. Perseus uses Leonard:

## [Lucretius, De Rerum Natura, BOOK I, line 1](#)

Should you be looking a little further down for that Latin to correspond?

Fear holds dominion over mortality

Only because, seeing in land and sky

So much the cause whereof no wise they know,

Men think Divinities are working there.

Meantime, when once we know from nothing still

Nothing can be create, we shall divine

More clearly what we seek: those elements

From which alone all things created are,

And how accomplished by no tool of Gods.

## [Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Also starting in passage 102, it says "we do not know the nature of the soul" implying skepticism. The "we" is totally incorrect because it is talking about the misleading nature of others. And I see in other translations it uses "they".

I agree with Kalosyni that the difference between "we" and "they" is significant!

ignoratur enim quae sit natura animai, (1.112)

ignoratur is verb 3rd sg pres ind pass, i.e., 3rd person singular would be "he" (or "they" if used in the singular sense) not "we" (1st person plural).

If Humphries is using "we"... that's an issue.

I'm partial to Stallings primarily since that's the first translation I read front to back 😊