

# Favorite Translation of Lucretius

Post by “Cassius” of January 26, 2023 at 11:00 AM

## [Quote from Nate](#)

I have, before, come across the suggestion that repetition found throughout Lucretius' verse lends credence to the proposition that we are only reading a draft of De Rerum Natura and not its author's anticipated final form.

Yes I have seen that stated many times too, but the task of getting a grip on the big picture of what is going on in De Rerum Natura has been such a hurdle for me that in my case I've never had time to absorb these points either.

Thanks for pointing these out because once the haze begins to clear and you see what Lucretius is doing with the poem as a whole, it's much easier to appreciate textual issues like this and think about what they might mean.

Seems to me it's clear that DRN was not left to us in what was intended to be a final form, and that plays into Emily Austin's suggestion about the probably intended ending for Book Six, not to mention how Lucretius he apparently intended to go further into the nature of the [Epicurean gods](#) before he got finished. And it calls to mind that mysterious later reference about Cicero "emending" the text.

It seems to me that it is possible that (1) it wasn't finished, but also (2) some of the most controversial material (about the gods) was intentionally deleted by critics, or (3) some combination of the two.