

Joseph Thompson - "Lucretius Or Paul?" 1875

Post by "Cassius" of February 12, 2024 at 8:15 PM

Let's could be said about this following paragraph - most of it negative. This is what Frances Wright attacks under the name "imagination" -

Quote

For the constitution of a material universe, it is true that matter and space or body and void are alike essential, and so far as we know are all; but the question is, whether the material universe is all; and that question cannot be settled by purely physical observation upon the nature of bodies or the contents of space. That incessant striving of man's nature after something above and beyond, a striving that grows the more impatient with his mastery over nature and his accumulating stores of knowledge;— that mighty unrest in which a Prometheus, a Lucifer, a Faust are but projected types of our inner selves—the unrest that urges man on to think the unthinkable and to know the unknowable — that makes poetry, philosophy, music so much higher and worthier representations of humanity than the recorded observation of phenomena - what is this but an attestation of that "third thing" that Lucretius could not feel nor see, but that Paul had attained to when he spoke of "body, soul and spirit," and found not only a third element in the constitution of man and of the universe, but also a "third heaven" in which spirit might abide?