

Scientific Support for Psychological Hedonism

Post by "Cassius" of April 23, 2024 at 7:39 AM

[Quote from Don](#)

how thorny of a problem it is trying to translate ideas across languages using a single word.

I can't help thinking that this is the reason why Lucretius seems to me to be saying the same thing over and over in various passages, just using different words, as if that's not just poetry but the way to triangulate on precise meanings:

For example four ways of saying atoms: "These we are accustomed in explaining their reason to call *matter* and *begetting bodies of things* and to name *seeds of things* and also to term *first* things are."

LUCRETIIUS

ne mea dona tibi studio disposta fideli,
intellecta prius quam sint, contempta relinquo.
nam tibi de summa caeli ratione deumque
disserere incipiam et rerum primordia pandam, 55
unde omnis natura creet res auctet alatque
quove eadem rursus natura perempta resolvat,
quae nos materiem et genitalia corpora rebus
reddunda in ratione vocare et semina rerum
appellare suemus et haec eadem usurpare 60
corpora prima, quod ex illis sunt omnia primis.

I think it does make sense when explaining things to say it multiple ways.