

# The Rhetoric of Explanation in Lucretius' De Rerum Natura

Post by “Pacatus” of November 21, 2024 at 1:39 PM

This site has a brief review of the above book:  
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/...018401E33F97963>

The book itself is well beyond my budget. 😞

Reading the free sample on Amazon of the book mentioned by [Joshua](#) at the recent Zoom meeting, I came on this quote:

“While Epicurus scorned poetry as frivolous, Lucretius believed Epicurean philosophy needed poetry’s explanatory and persuasive power to be understood and embraced, and he justifies his choice to write in verse with a robust defense of natural philosophical poetry.”

- Jesse Hock, *The Erotics of Materialism: Lucretius and Early Modern Poetics*.

I seem to recall some discussion on here (maybe re Philodemus' treatise on poetry) about whether Epicurus' was a general dismissal of poetry *per se*, or whether he was reacting to the superstitious nature of such Greek poetry of his time, as in Homer.