

# George Santayana's Essay on Lucretius (1910)

Post by “Cassius” of August 14, 2020 at 8:06 AM

I wonder if it is possible that the jefferson-adams letters were published earlier. Although not as explicit as the William Short letter, there is some very Epicurean material in those, particularly these two:

- [Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, July 5, 1814](#) Here Jefferson denounces Plato (labeling ***The Republic*** as full of “whimsies, puerilities, and unintelligible jargon”) and stating of the Platonisms grafted into Christian theology that “nonsense can never be explained.”

- [Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, August 15, 1820](#) Here Jefferson complains to Adams about Christian theology and states that “To talk of *immaterial* existences is to talk of *nothings*. To say that the human soul, angels, god, are immaterial, is to say they are *nothings*, or that there is no god, no angels, no soul. I cannot reason otherwise.”