

Reverence and Awe In Epicurean Philosophy

Post by “Don” of January 8, 2021 at 9:06 PM

I would agree with [Joshua](#) . Lucretius knew what he was doing. Venus aka Aphrodite is the goddess of eros, sexual desire/lust, from which all life is born. You can't have babies and successive generations without the - let's say - pleasurable procreative act. This is *the* act of the creation of life.

I also wanted to weigh in on Elli's note about VS 78 if anyone is confused by her "noble/brave" comment:

Quote

78. The noble/brave soul is devoted most of all to wisdom and to friendship — one a mortal good, the other immortal. ὁ γενναῖος περὶ σοφίαν καὶ φιλίαν μάλιστα γίγνεται, ὧν τὸ μὲν ἔστι θνητὸν ἀγαθόν, τὸ δὲ ἀθάνατον.

Epicurus's word in question is ὁ γενναῖος. Elli is absolutely correct that in modern Greek ὁ γενναῖος means "brave" <https://en.wiktionary.org/w/index.php?ti...&oldid=54707874>

However, in Ancient Greek the meaning was connected with "being true to one's birth or descent" <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...entry=gennai=os> It's easy to see how this came down to modern times with the meaning "brave" (i.e., noble, high-born people were supposed to be brave). Words change meaning over time, sometimes in much more surprising ways like English "sad" which used to mean "satisfied, sated, full" https://www.etymonline.com/word/sad#etymonline_v_22587