

Episode Sixty - Dreams and the Mind's Use of Images

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Elisabeth Asmis on "Lucretius' Explanation of Moving Dream Figures"

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LUCRETIUS' EXPLANATION OF MOVING DREAM FIGURES AT 4.768-76

The great majority of editors of Lucretius have long recognized a serious disorder in Lucretius' explanation of moving images at 4.768-822.¹ Verses 768-76 are an answer to a question which is not asked until later, at vv. 768-93, and vv. 808-22 clearly follow in sense upon vv. 768-76. Almost all editors have, therefore, resorted to one of two hypotheses: (1) following Lachmann, many have supposed that vv. 777-817 were composed by Lucretius some time after he had composed vv. 768-76, as a revision or addition which he did not fully integrate with the earlier text; and (2) following Merrill, others have supposed that all of the text from v. 768 to v. 822 was written as a single rough draft which Lucretius would have revised if he had had the opportunity.²

¹ I am grateful to the anonymous reader of the *American Journal of Philology* for valuable comments and suggestions. — Throughout the following discussion I shall use the verse numbering of Cyril Bailey's *Lucretii Carri de Rerum Natura Libri Sex*, 3 vols. (Oxford 1947) vol. 1: Prolegomena, Text and Critical Apparatus, Translation.

² For the first hypothesis, see Karl Lachmann, in *Z. für vergleichende Sprachwissenschaft* (Berlin 1838) 255-56; J. Béranger's edition (Leipzig 1872); H. J. Maury's edition with a translation and notes, 2 vols. (Cambridge 1904); Adolf Brügge's edition (Leipzig 1904), as well as Brügge's article, co-authored with F. Süssmilch, "Bemerkungen zum vierten Buche des Lucretius," part 3, *Philologus* 11 (1854) 413-48; 494-60; Carlo Eiremans' edition with introductory essays and notes, 4 vols. (Paris 1898-1901, esp. vol. 3, Appendix II to Book 4, 286-91; Cyril Bailey's text edition (Oxford 1908); Hermann Thiel's edition and translation, 2 vols. (Berlin 1927-31); and Karl