

Getting Started - Initial Thoughts on 3D Printing

Post by "Joshua" of April 28, 2021 at 10:32 PM

I say "peculiar interest of mine" because, for one thing, I am a land surveyor and these statues in their original forms were boundary stones. But I'm also beginning to think of Epicurean philosophy as, in a lot of interesting ways, a radical reinvention of limitations. There is Lucretius and his "deepset boundary stone" (*alte terminus haerens*), showing what can be and what cannot; there is the atom, a lower limit on the size and scale of the material; there is matter itself, without expiration and eternal; there is the void, infinite, without boundary; there is the *limit* of the scope of pleasure in the removal of all pain—not *the highest pleasure*, not the *telos* in itself—but the limit of its magnitude; there is the circumscription placed around the gods, bundled up and bounded off-oh, somewhere.

There is the utterly final boundary line of death, beyond which there is nothing. There is *nothing* itself, limited in its own way—for nothing can come from nothing.

These and many others have engaged my thinking for the last several weeks. Epicurus' philosophy is the result of his boundary survey of the *whole of nature*. He established new boundaries, removed those that were set wrongly before him, and rediscovered even older lines that were set rightly by others but had been forgotten or overlooked since.

When Thomas More in his *Utopia* wanted to explore Epicurean philosophy, he flung it out onto the very margins of the New World, at the far tip of the spear of human knowledge. He seems to have intuited what we know in any case: that it doesn't matter much where you put him, because Epicurus and his students are "at home" in the universe. Diogenes of Oenoanda grasped this plainly;

Quote

Not least for those who are called foreigners, for they are not foreigners. For, while the various segments of the Earth give different people a different country, the whole compass of this world gives all people a single country, the entire Earth, and a single home, the world.