

Toward a New Interlinear Gloss of De Rerum Natura

Post by “Cassius” of June 2, 2021 at 11:19 PM

Looks like it is Lucian I am remembering, so the issue would be the word in Lucian's Greek --

κατακαύσας, ἀπὸ ἀλλοτρίων, ἀπὸ τῶν ἀλλοτρίων τῶν ἀπὸ τῶν ἀλλοτρίων.

In this connection Alexander once made himself supremely ridiculous. Coming across Epicurus' *Accepted Maxims*, the most admirable of his books, as you know, with its terse presentment of his wise conclusions, he brought it into the middle of the market-place, there burned it on a fig-wood fire for the sins of its author, and cast its ashes into the sea. He issued an oracle on the occasion:

The dotard's maxims to the flames be given.

The fellow had no conception of the blessings conferred by that book upon its readers, of the peace, tranquillity, and independence of mind it produces, of the protection it gives against terrors, phantoms, and marvels, vain hopes and insubordinate desires, of the judgment and candor that it fosters, or of its true purging of the spirit, not with torches and squalls and such rubbish, but with right reason, truth, and frankness.