

Episode Eighty-Two - The Opening Of Book Six - Restatement of the Goal of the Poem

Post by "Don" of August 6, 2021 at 11:02 PM

We were talking about the word "vessel" in this episode and whether it referred to the mind. The Latin word is *vas* so I looked up to see if it is anywhere else in Lucretius.

Sure enough, there are several places including 3:1003-1010. [Cassius](#) was also spot on in his suspicion it had to do with the Danaids. Here is the relevant passage:

[Lucretius, De Rerum Natura, Liber Tertius, line 978](#)

"Then to be always feeding an ingrate mind,
Filling with good things, satisfying never-
As do the seasons of the year for us,
When they return and bring their progenies
And varied charms, and we are never filled
With the fruits of life- O this, I fancy, 'tis
To pour, like those young virgins in the tale,

Waters into a sieve, unfilled forever."

The word used in Latin is *vas* in that next to last line, not something meaning sieve. *Pertusum* does mean perforated, so it's a perforated vessel...

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...ntry%3Dpertundo>

So this lines up with the leaky vessel "full of holes" in Book 6.