

An Epicurean Understanding of Valentine's Day: Love, Romance, and Free-will

Post by "Don" of January 16, 2022 at 6:47 AM

[The Internet Classics Archive | On the Nature of Things by Lucretius](#)

Quote

And here, whoso

Decides to call the ocean Neptune, or

The grain-crop Ceres, and prefers to abuse

The name of Bacchus rather than pronounce

The liquor's proper designation, him

Let us permit to go on calling earth

Mother of Gods, if only he will spare

To taint his soul with foul religion.

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We should always remember that Lucretius is using the Greek gods' names metaphorically, as he describes in Book 2 above.

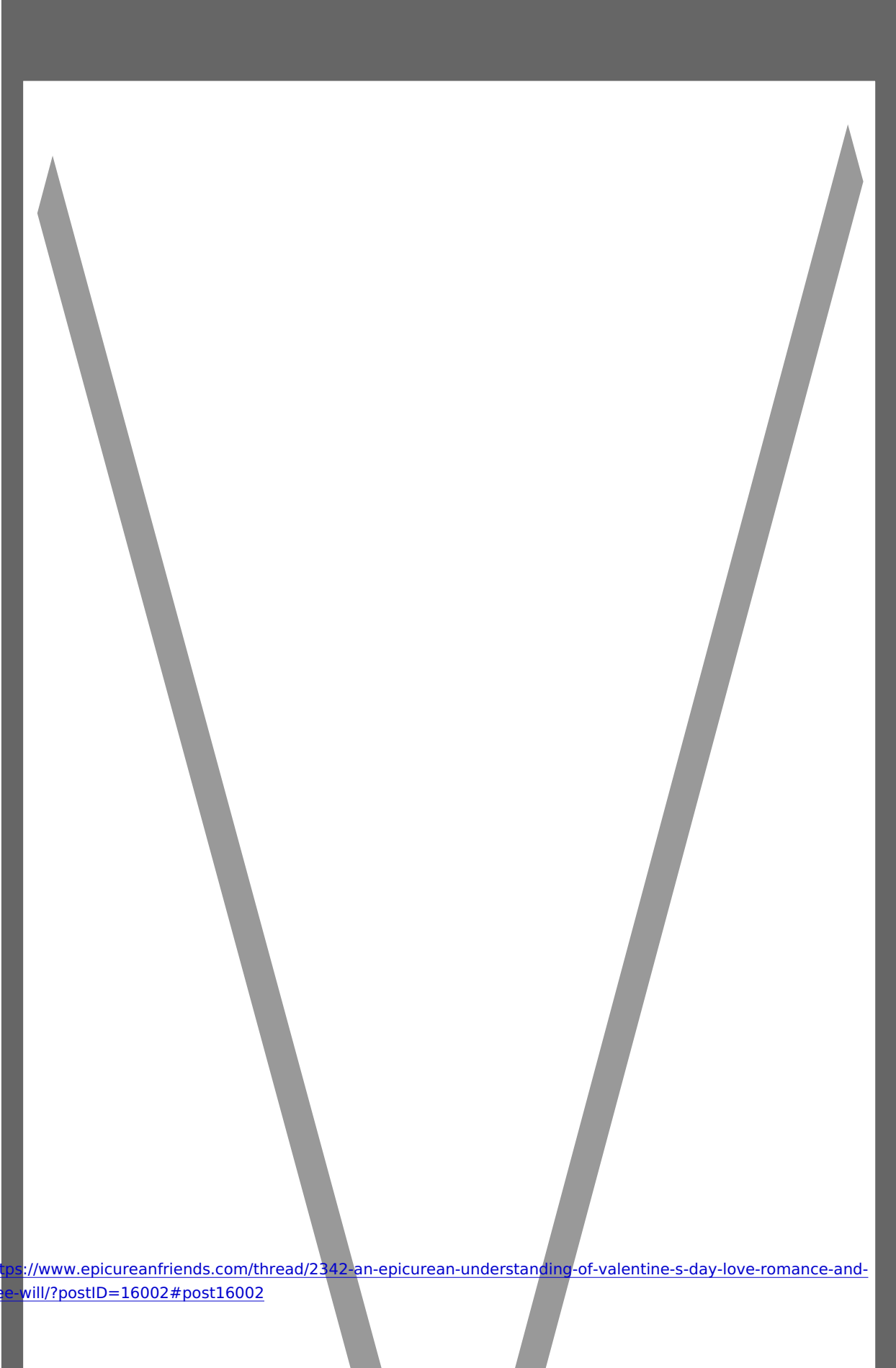
[Aphrodite and the Gods of Love: Worship \(Getty Villa Exhibitions\)](#)

This is the first time I've ever seen one aspect of Aphrodite be named "Aphrodite en kepois" (Aphrodite in the gardens).

<https://www.theoi.com/Cult/AphroditeCult.html>

This page seems to imply there was a shrine of Aphrodite kepois in or near the Kerameikos district of ancient Athens. Where was the Garden of Epicurus? In the Kerameikos. Coincidence? Pausanias was writing in the 2nd c. CE.

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<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2342-an-epicurean-understanding-of-valentine-s-day-love-romance-and-free-will/?postID=16002#post16002>

[Aphrodite of the Gardens - Wikipedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org

I realize this is a bit of a tangent so I apologize for that. To get back on track, here's my take on the characteristics of the sage as it pertains to this topic:

[Epicurean Sage - Sexual Relationships](#)

I have tried to use the most literal translations of the Greek words here for more impact. Some translations use "marriage" or "fall in love" for words in the...

sites.google.com

PS: Having looked at that Pausanias excerpt closer, maybe I spoke too soon. Here are the two sections in Pausanias where he talks about Aphrodite in the gardens:

[Pausanias, Description of Greece, Attica, chapter 27](#)

[Pausanias, Description of Greece, Attica, chapter 19](#)