

# Episode One Hundred Twelve - Epicurus' Letter to Herodotus 01 (Introduction)

**Post by "Cassius" of March 11, 2022 at 8:08 AM**

A second issue that we discussed was exactly how many "epitomes" (outlines? summaries?) Epicurus prepared of his work.

Did Epicurus prepare (1) his 37 books which constitute his full work, and (2) the letter to Herodotus, which summarizes it at highest level?

Did Epicurus prepare (1) his 37 books which constitute his full work, and (2) the letter to Herodotus, an epitome which summarizes it at highest level, and (3) a larger epitome than Herodotus that also constituted a summary, but was significantly shorter than the full 37 book?

Our discussion included reference to the possibility that Lucretius was working from was (3) a larger epitome, which he was able to use as a guide to decide what excerpts from the 37 books to include in his own poem.

I seemed to remember that DeWitt might have suggested that, plus our text excerpt indicates that Epicurus had previously (before Herodotus) had prepared another summary.