

# Epicurean nautical references, allusions, and metaphors in the texts

Post by "Cassius" of August 25, 2022 at 7:46 PM

Great! Would the "shores of light" references in Lucretius fit in this picture?

Humphries Book One:

But now, since all created things have come  
From their own definite kinds of seed, they move  
From their beginnings toward the shores of light  
Out of their primal notes.

...

There must be  
A proper meeting of their seeds in time  
For us to see them at maturity  
Grown by their season's favor, living earth  
Bringing them safely to the shores of light.

Humphries Book Two:

They give her eunuch priests  
To demonstrate that men are sometimes found  
Unworthy of their fathers, ravishers  
Of the maternal godhead, and such men  
Must not send offspring to the shores of light.

Humphries Book Five:

And why

Must every season bring disease? And why  
Is early death so free to walk the world?  
When nature, after struggle, tears the child  
Out of its mother's womb to the shores of light,  
He lies there naked, lacking everything,  
Like a sailor driven wave-battered to some coast,  
And the poor little thing fills all the air  
With lamentation - but that's only right  
In view of all the griefs that lie ahead  
Along his way through life.

Now I turn

To our own earth's beginnings, to how the fields  
All gently made decision what new birth  
To send to the shores of light, or to commit  
To the whims of the wind.

....

Time brings everything  
Little by little to the shores of light  
By grace of art and reason, till we see  
All things illuminate each other's rise  
Up to the pinnacles of loftiness.

MFSMITH -- Book One:

Since you and you alone stand at the helm of nature's ship, and since without your sanction nothing springs up into the shining shores of light, nothing blossoms into mature loveliness, it is you whom I desire to be my associate in writing this poem \*On the Nature of Things,\* which I am attempting to compose for my friend Memmius.<sup>3</sup> Through your will, goddess, he is always endowed outstandingly with all fine qualities. So with all the more justification, Venus, give my

words charm that will ensure their immortality.