

The Twelve Fundamentals - Discussion on Lucretius Today Podcast

Post by "Eikadistes" of January 4, 2023 at 6:54 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

[Quote from Nate](#)

Agreed. Until someone can demonstrate better reason, I'm translating ΠΑΡΕΓΚΛΙΣΙΣ as "[the] wiggle".

Don't get me wrong, I *really* like "wiggle" 😊 but...

On a more serious note, do the atoms "wiggle" back and forth or do they veer off to one side or the other at random intervals? The connotation of "wiggle" is that they're vibrating. παρέγκλισις seems to imply the idea of diverging from a set path (hence, "swerve" I guess) but I fully agree with you that "swerve" has too much the flavor of intentionality. κλίσις had to do with bending, inclining, or even the turning of soldiers to the left or right (per LSJ). There was κλίνω bend, slant, lean, wander, stray. etc. The English word used for clinamen or ΠΑΡΕΓΚΛΙΣΙΣ should evoke a random, involuntary action on the part of the atom to deviate from a set direction, itself due to nothing more than the "weight" of the atom "falling" in a straight line.

I'm trying out the idea that particles are "**twitchy**" and "**tweak**" when they move. I'm finding that "twerks", "wiggles" and "wags" imply a patterned rhythm that does not reflect the spontaneous, irregular quality of the ΠΑΡΕΓΚΛΙΣΙΣ.