

The Twelve Fundamentals - Discussion on Lucretius Today Podcast

Post by “Don” of January 6, 2023 at 12:24 PM

Sedley, in *Lucretius and the Transformation of Greek Wisdom*, posits that the swerve doesn't show up in the letter to Herodotus because the letter only covers *On Nature* books 1-10. He further conjectures that the swerve showed up in book 25 or books in that area, but there's no surviving fragments of book 25 that contain mention of it.

I doubt Lucretius would have included the swerve without justification from a source text. That said, it certainly doesn't seem pivotal or foundation to Epicurus's philosophy. It could be part of a specific argument against Democritus and his physical determinism but may have become overblown with later commentators and critics.