

# "Pleasure" and the opening line of Lucretius

**Post by "Joshua" of January 11, 2023 at 11:37 AM**

Voluptas was also a goddess, signifying sensual pleasure, granddaughter of Venus--alternatively, an aspect of Venus herself--and her Greek equivalent was Hedone.

*Delight* makes for a good English translation in part because it is 'higher in tone'--more suited to an archaic form like Latin epic verse. It has the same Latin root as 'delectable', and there are also metrical considerations. "de-LIGHT of GODS and MEN" is iambic, the standard English poetic foot. *Delight of gods and men...the darling buds of May*.

*Pleasure* breaks up the flow. This is true even in prose, though it wouldn't be as strongly felt.