

A Deadly Fever

Post by "Cassius" of January 15, 2023 at 6:13 PM

Joshua I should look up what Santayana said before writing this, but as usual I will blunder forward without doing my research:

Is Santayana looking for Mars just to balance Venus in the opening because he thinks there should be another reference to the role of gods?

Maybe Lucretius had no desire to balance gods but to leave them behind, and the full reason for ending on the death and destruction note is that he intended to state or at least evoke the true ending of the Plague story, which is that the people of Athens gave up on worrying about the gods at all, and tried to enjoy life as best they could?

I gather that is what Emily Austin's book is suggesting?

And if so Santayana would be wrong in looking for an allusion about gods except as to a dismissal of them? (Meaning that part of Lucretius' point was that Mars on the warpath is exactly what did NOT happen to cause the plague?)