

Thoughts On What Lucretius Might Have Considered For The Ending of Book Six - A Comparison Chart of Thucydides and Lucretius

Post by "Cassius" of January 15, 2023 at 7:10 PM

Joshua has me thinking about this subject again due to his post about the plague. Rather than put this note in that thread and disrupt the chain of thought, I will add this here:

If in fact the point of the ending is related to the point that the citizens of Athens who lived through the Plague were thereby freed from their religious superstitions (as Emily Austin suggests), it strikes me that the famous lines from Virgil might actually fit at the very end of the poem too.

Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas

Atque metus omnes, et inexorabile fatum

Subjecit pedibus, strepitumque Acherontis avari

Which translates to something like:

Happy was he who was able to learn the causes of things,
and who set under his feet all fear of unrelenting fate,

and the noise of greedy Acheron.

[Felix, qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas - Wikipedia](#)

Wouldn't it be interesting if Virgil was thinking of the end of Lucretius' poem when he inserted that line into verse 490 of Book 2 of the "[Georgics](#)" (29 BC)?