

Toward a New Interlinear Gloss of De Rerum Natura

Post by “Don” of June 14, 2023 at 12:16 AM

I think another interesting way to look at this is using the title of one of Epicurus's books in that list of Diogenes Laertius:

Περὶ βίωων δ'

On Modes of Living, in 4 books

Those was a book on the ways to make living a opposed to the physical process of living itself.

I get the idea that living is living for Epicurus, in using ζωή since he can use it for humans and gods.

Diogenes uses ζωή here:

[74] "And further, we must not suppose that the worlds have necessarily one and the same shape. [On the contrary, in the twelfth book "On Nature" he himself says that the shapes of the worlds differ, some being spherical, some oval, others again of shapes different from these. They do not, however, admit of every shape. Nor are they living beings which have been separated from the infinite.] For nobody can prove that in one sort of world there might not be contained, whereas in another sort of world there could not possibly be, the seeds out of which animals and plants arise and all the rest of the things we see. [And the same holds good for their nurture in a world after they have arisen. And so too we must think it happens upon the earth also.]

And here in 34:

They affirm that there are two states of feeling, pleasure and pain, which arise in every animate being παν ζωων, and that the one is favourable and the other hostile to that being, and by their means choice and avoidance are determined; and that there are two kinds of inquiry, the one concerned with things, the other with nothing but words.⁵³So much, then, for his division⁵⁴ and criterion in their main outline.