

The Temple of Venus Genetrix

Post by "Cassius" of August 29, 2023 at 7:21 AM

Thanks for pointing again to that Dewitt article -- it contains what I consider to be very good analysis, and even sheds some light on our recent discussions about DeWitt's on views.

It is interesting that he labels the "Great Commission" as "trite," and that he says about Lucretius;

The wish is father to the thought, as Julius Caesar once remarked, and out of our great love and admiration for

Lucretius we are tempted to magnify his influence, but if his works had perished there is no denying that we should know little more than his name.

This is also an interesting statement about Lucretius, who he says "seems to have withdrawn within himself and to have become an unsocial socialist, dreaming of redeeming the common run of mankind by a work of reason fit only for the few."

More comments of interest:

"Somewhere about this date the Aetna was composed, the only poem that is composed entirely in the Lucretian

manner." (I realize he refers to manner and not to content, but still might be interesting to review "Aetna" at some point.)

"The lack of Stoic professors in the capital was remedied by the arrival of Posidonius in 51, who healed the quarrel between Stoic and astrological determinism, which had been necessary to the purer teaching of Panaetius." (That's an issue and a development of which I am unaware.)