

Was De Rerum Natura intended as satire? A lecture by THM Gellar-Goad.

Post by “Kalosyni” of October 29, 2024 at 8:48 AM

So if Lucretius criticized Epicurean opponents, the Stoics (and Platonists?) then that is where it is satire (which [Cassius](#) pointed out in post 8 above).

And does Lucretius ridicule those who believe pleasure exists in excess riches and power?

I found this:

Quote

satire, artistic form, chiefly literary and dramatic, in which human or individual vices, follies, abuses, or shortcomings are held up to [censure](#) by means of ridicule, [derision](#), [burlesque](#), [irony](#), [parody](#), [caricature](#), or other methods, sometimes with an intent to inspire social reform.

Satire is a protean term. Together with its derivatives, it is one of the most heavily worked literary [designations](#) and one of the most imprecise. The great English lexicographer [Samuel Johnson](#) defined satire as “a poem in which wickedness or folly is censured,” and more elaborate definitions are rarely more satisfactory. No strict definition can [encompass](#) the complexity of a word that signifies, on one hand, a kind of literature—as when one speaks of the satires of the Roman poet [Horace](#) or calls the American novelist [Nathanael West](#)’s *A Cool Million* a satire—and, on the other, a mocking spirit or tone that [manifests](#) itself in many literary [genres](#) but can also enter into almost any kind of human [communication](#). Wherever [wit](#) is employed to expose something foolish or vicious to [criticism](#), there satire exists, whether it be in song or sermon, in [painting](#) or political debate, on television or in the movies. In this sense satire is everywhere.

Quote

By their practice, the great Roman poets [Horace](#) and [Juvenal](#) set indelibly the lineaments of the [genre](#) known as the formal verse satire and, in so doing, exerted [pervasive](#), if often indirect, influence on all subsequent literary satire. They gave laws to the form they established, but it must be said that the laws were very loose indeed.

And this source has more on understanding the genre: <https://www.britannica.com/art/satire>