

Episode 254 - The Skeptic Asks: Does Not Epicurus Undermine Religion As Much As Any Outright Atheist? - Cicero's OTNOTG 29

Post by “Cassius” of November 11, 2024 at 9:06 AM

One thing worthy of note in the text we discussed this week is that Cicero appears to offer us very clear difference between "religio" and "superstitio." Given that these words appear in different contexts in Lucretius it should be helpful to compare the usage between Cicero and Lucretius and see if we think they are being used in the same way. At the very least, this passage should serve as a major reference showing that the Latin philosophers at the time of Lucretius certainly thought there was a difference between groundless fears of the gods and some other more correct view of them.

XLII:

Yonge: The opinions of these philosophers are not only destructive of superstition, which arises from a vain fear of the Gods, but of religion also, which consists in a pious adoration of them.

Rackham: For the doctrines of all these thinkers abolish not only superstition, which implies a groundless fear of the gods, but also religion, which consists in piously worshipping them.

Latin: Horum enim sententiae omnium non modo superstitionem tollunt in qua inest timor inanis deorum, sed etiam religionem quae deorum cultu pio continetur.

Would be interesting to compare Lucretius' use of these words in some of his famous passages.