

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

Post by "Titus" of November 11, 2024 at 1:29 PM

The closing passage of the introductory text from "Laughing Atoms, Laughing Matter" on page 16 states as follows:

"As I suggest in my conclusion to this book, it is worthwhile to think of De Rerum Natura not as a work of Epicurean philosophy or as a satire of it but, rather, as a work of Epicurean satire. The tools and tropes and texts of satire are deployed in the service of the Lucretian speaker's stated Epicurean goals, while the tenets and totems of Epicureanism are deployed in service of the speaker's satiric commentary on his society."