

Welcome JJElbert!

Post by “Joshua” of May 28, 2019 at 1:06 PM

Oh, no! Sorry, I meant *The Swerve*. His previous book was *Will in the World*, which was my first of his. A biography of Shakespeare, and nothing to do with Epicurus. *The Swerve*, for all its many faults, genuinely captivated me. Greenblatt reveals the architecture of a solid materialist foundation beneath Lucretius' frequently erroneous didactics.

It's true, for example, that Lucretius has the size of the sun all wrong. But what's more important was the brilliant insight that the Earth was merely one world among many in an infinite and centerless universe. These errors (minor quibbles when compared to the groundless cosmology of the Academics) are nevertheless obstacles to the modern mind in approaching the Epicureans. The texts by Greenblatt and DeWitt are foremost among those attempting to clear those obstacles, and while DeWitt's work is more useful and more important, Greenblatt's work is far more accessible to the general reader.