

Lucretius - Not Accidents, Not Incidents, But "Contextidents"

Post by "Cassius" of January 6, 2018 at 9:05 PM

I don't have the page reference but I think you are probably referring to this part, in the translation at Epicurus.net, where it appears there is no mention of the qualities being "accidental":

Moreover, we must hold that the atoms in fact possess none of the qualities belonging to things which come under our observation, **except shape, weight, and size, and the properties necessarily conjoined with shape. For every quality changes, but the atoms do not change**, since, when the composite bodies are dissolved, there must needs be a permanent something, solid and indissoluble, left behind, which makes change possible: not changes into or from the non-existent. but often through differences of arrangement, and sometimes through additions and subtractions of the atoms. Hence these somethings capable of being diversely arranged must be indestructible, exempt from change, but possessed each of its own distinctive mass and configuration. This must remain.

For in the case of changes of configuration within our experience the figure is supposed to be inherent when other qualities are stripped of, but the qualities are not supposed, like the shape which is left behind, to inhere in the subject of change, but to vanish altogether from the body. Thus, then, what is left behind is sufficient to account for the differences in composite bodies, since something at least must necessarily be left remaining and be immune from annihilation.