

What fears does modern science remove, as Epicurean physics did in antiquity?

Post by “Joshua” of June 6, 2025 at 12:54 PM

Quote

[...] The ultimate, most glorious restoration would be to the golden age of King Arthur.

We get most of our sense of King Arthur from Geoffrey of Monmouth, who completed his *Historia Regum Britanniae* (History of the Kings of Britain) in 1138, and from Sir Thomas Malory, whose fifteenth-century *Le Morte d'Arthur* (The Death of Arthur) was, in 1485, one of the first books to be printed in England. That gave the Arthur myth wider circulation. There's now been so much talk about King Arthur over the centuries that many people feel, like they do with ghosts, that 'there must be something in it'. There is: it just happens to be deep-seated psychological need rather than historical reality.

The story of Arthur reflects our longing, as a species, for the ancient, concealed and magical. Towards the end of *Le Morte d'Arthur*, Malory suggests the title is not the spoiler it seems: 'Yet some men say in many parts of England that King Arthur is not dead, but had gone by the will of our Lord Jesu into another place; and ... many men say that there is written upon his tomb this verse: *Hic jacet Arthurus, Rex quondam, Rexque futurus*' (Here lies Arthur, the once and future king).

-David Mitchell, *Unruly*

Display More