

# Venus and Mars - "Good" vs. "Evil"?

Post by "Cassius" of June 22, 2025 at 5:46 PM

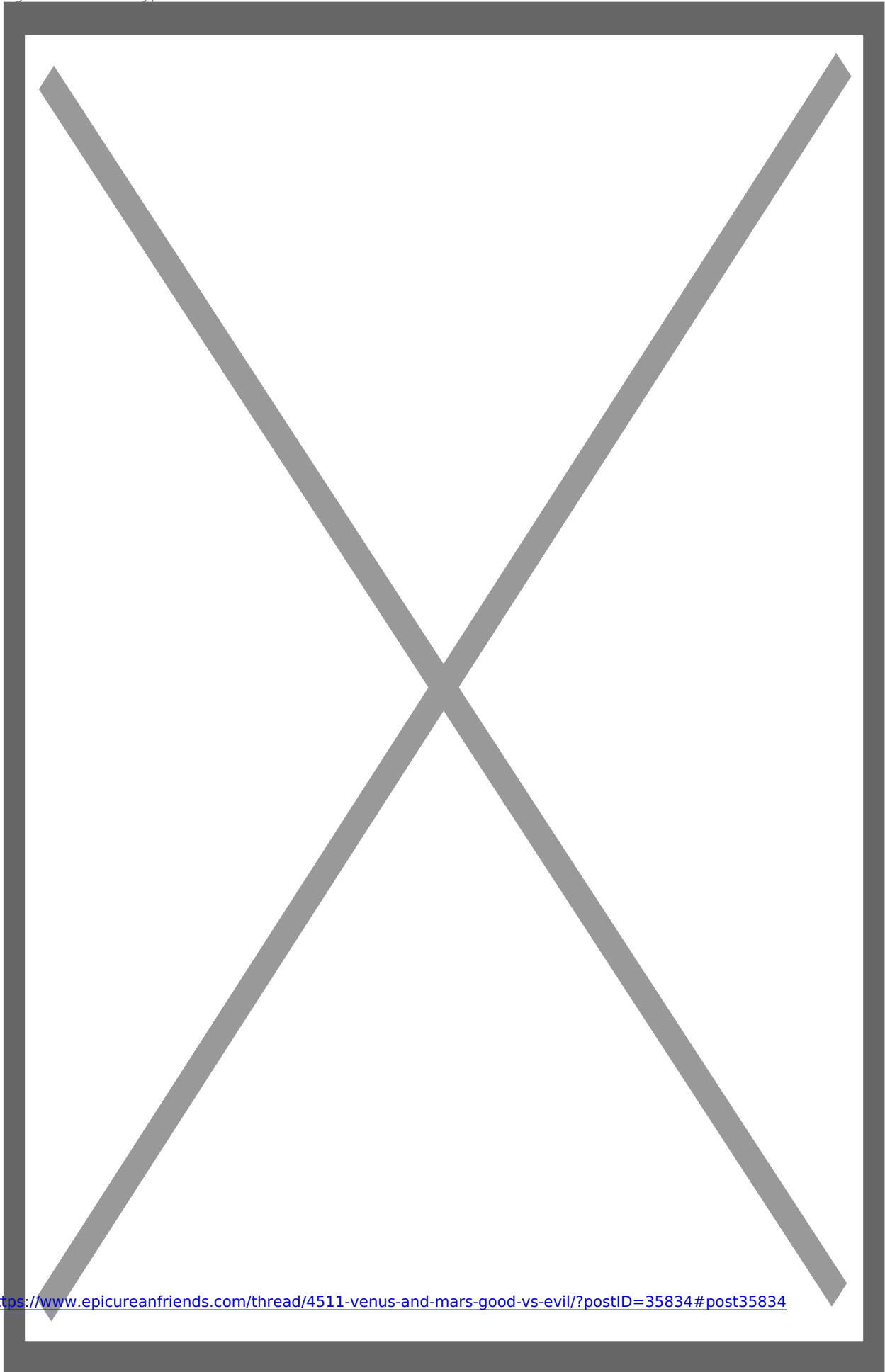
In regard to the opening of Lucretius referring to interaction between Mars and Venus, I know personally that I've always associated the allusion to mean something like "Venus - good / Mars - bad." However I now see that the original Greek mythology behind their relationship appears to be more subtle, with Venus being at one point in love with Mars, and that they were sometimes cooperative in ancient artwork.

I've collected several references, and I'm starting this thread to discuss whether there are subtleties in this relationship which would give us a deeper understanding of Lucretius' depiction of their relationship. I would especially appreciate comment by [Elli](#) or others who are more well-read on Greek mythology.

[Ares & Aphrodite - Ancient Greek Vase Painting](#)

<https://www.theoi.com/image/K9.1Ares.jpg>

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[Representation of Ares and Aphrodite, accompanied by loves playing with the weapons of the god. Fresco from the Villa de Mars and Venus in Pompei. 1st century AD. Archaeological Museum of Naples](#)

Representation of Ares and Aphrodite, accompanied by loves playing with the weapons of the god. Fresco from the Villa de Mars and Venus in Pompei. 1st century...

www.meisterdrucke.us

[https://www.meisterdrucke.us/kunstwerke/1260px/Roman -  
Representation of Ares and Aphrodite accompanied by loves playing with the weapo -  
%28MeisterDrucke-946356%29.jpg](https://www.meisterdrucke.us/kunstwerke/1260px/Roman_-_Representation_of_Ares_and_Aphrodite_accompanied_by_loves_playing_with_the_weapo_-_%28MeisterDrucke-946356%29.jpg)

[This wikipedia article](#) in particular is helpful:

"Aphrodite The Warlike"

**Aphrodite Areia** ([Ancient Greek](#): Ἀφροδίτη Ἀρεία) or "Aphrodite the Warlike" was a cult [epithet](#) of the [Greek goddess Aphrodite](#), in which she was depicted in full [armor](#) like the war god [Ares](#).<sup>[1]</sup> This representation was found in [Sparta](#) and [Taras](#) (modern [Taranto](#)). There were other, similarly martial interpretations of the goddess, such as at her [Sanctuary at Kythira](#), where she was worshiped under the epithet [Aphrodite Urania](#), who was also represented as being armed. The [epithet](#) "Areia", meaning "warlike", was applied to other gods in addition to Aphrodite, such as [Athena](#), [Zeus](#), and possibly [Hermes](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

[Aphrodite Areia - Wikipedia](#)

[Votive relief to Ares and Aphrodite. Venice, National Archaeological Museum \(Venezia, Museo archeologico nazionale\)](#)

Votive relief to Ares and Aphrodite. Marble. Attic work of the second half of the 5th cent. BCE. Venice, National Archaeological Museum

ancientrome.ru

<https://ancientrome.ru/art/img/7/7684.jpg>