

Thomas Nail - Returning to Lucretius

Post by "Cassius" of January 14, 2026 at 4:30 AM

Also Eikadistes I just glanced back over [your recent article](#). What you wrote makes perfect sense to me in going over the many different words that were used as apparent synonyms for particles and stressing that we should pay attention to them.

But while I see you making the important point that Epicurus was significantly different from Democritus and Leucippus, I don't see you saying that there are any profound differences between Epicurus and Lucretius.

Your article seems very clear and helpful. This one by Nail strikes me much differently as implying profound differences between Epicurus and Lucretius which are not clearly explained. I have not generally found the contention that Lucretius differs significantly from Epicurus to be helpful or well grounded in persuasive argument, and that's how I react to this article too.

So at this moment my reaction is that I completely endorse anyone taking the time to read *your* article. On the other hand I doubt that the *Nail* article is a good use of time for most readers. Please correct me if you think i am off base!

Thread

[Epicurus Was Not an Atomist \(...sort of\)](#)

[epicureanfriends.com/wcf/attachment/6015/](https://www.epicureanfriends.com/wcf/attachment/6015/)

Greetings, all! I [published some thoughts](#) about the limitations in our employment of the word "atomism" as an expression of ancient Epicurean particle physics. I'll admit that I might be splitting hairs here, and exploiting a post-structuralist position about the symbols and their context ... I read a lot of Derrida back in college. I apologize in advance. 😊

In a nutshell:

- The notions of "atomism" and "ancient Epicurean particle physics" can be contrasted

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■

Eikadistes

December 22, 2025 at 2:24 PM