

Thomas Nail - Returning to Lucretius

Post by "Cassius" of January 14, 2026 at 4:56 AM

One more comment:

If what Nail is saying is that he sees much more emphasis on *motion* in Lucretius than he does in Epicurus, and that this is why we should not be overly focused on anything that is *static*, then I completely agree. I think motion is a critical component of Epicurean thought that deserves emphasis.

But I don't think that Epicurus failed to emphasize motion if he is perceived by some to do so, it is because people are obsessed with the discussion of katastematic vs static pleasure, as Nail discusses in his ethics section. If Nail is making the point that there are more profound implications of motion in ethics than people appreciate due to modern over-focus on ataraxia, then I agree with him.

But as I read the article he is more focused on something else, presumably related to the universe being something other than discrete particles. (Is he arguing for a "plenum"?) I don't see Lucretius doing that at all nor do I think looking in that direction leads to anything helpful.