

Thomas Nail - Returning to Lucretius

Post by "Bryan" of January 24, 2026 at 7:06 PM

Quote

However, if we interpret Lucretius' concept of *corpora* as 'discrete particles' or 'atoms' instead of flows, his whole conceptual edifice of folding [*plex*] (*simplex*, *duplex*, *complex*, *amplex*) completely unravels. Atoms simply cannot fold.

I do believe that Nail is alone in interpreting *corpora* as "flows." *Corpora* is a common and simple word that means "bodies." It is used by Lucretius, among many other terms, to refer to the *primary particles* ("*atoms*" in the literal sense of *fundamental uncuttable units*).

The idea of "flow" will not be found in any dictionary entry for *Corpora* ([link for example](#)). There is no place in Latin literature where *Corpora* means anything close to "flows."

Similarly, although the [-plex](#) ending in *simplex*, *duplex*, etc. does indeed etymologically come from "-fold", nevertheless *simplex*, and *duplex* are the standard Latin words for "single and double" -- and forcing an actual and literal "fold" into the idea -- *beyond* "single-fold" meaning "single" and "two-fold" meaning "double" -- is another unique interpretation of Thomas Nail.