

Sunday February 1, 2026 - Zoom Meeting - Lucretius Book Review - Book One Lines 136-146

Post by “Kalosyni” of February 1, 2026 at 12:23 PM

Here is this same section, translated by Johnston:

Quote

"I am not unaware how difficult it is to clarify in Latin verse obscure matters discovered by the Greeks, above all since we must deal with many things employing new words, because our language is impoverished and the subject new. But your own excellence and the pleasure I look forward to from your sweet friendship are prompting me to finish any work, no matter how demanding, urging me to stay awake throughout the peaceful night, seeking words and verse where I can at last hold up a clear light for your mind, and you can see into the hidden core of things.

And so this terror, this darkness of mind, must be dispelled, not by rays from the sun or bright shafts of daylight, but by reason and the face of nature. And we will start to weave her first principle as follows: nothing is ever brought forth by the gods from nothing.¹ That is, of course, how, through fear, all mortal men are held in check—they view many things done on earth and in the sky, effects whose causes they cannot see at all, and so they assume that such things happen because of gods. Hence, once we understand that nothing can be produced from nothing, 210 then we shall more accurately follow what we are looking for, how everything can be created and all work can be done without any assistance from the gods."

<https://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/lucretius/lucretiusall.pdf>