

Virgil's Reference To Lucretius in "The Georgics"

Post by "Cassius" of August 3, 2019 at 11:55 AM



Here is a reminder of what someone who had full access to Epicurean texts, teachers, and friends, stressed as important about Epicurean philosophy: The key to Happiness is in understanding how Nature works, and it is this knowledge which allows us to drive away all fears, including fear of "fate" and of punishment after death.

(from Virgil's "Georgics" 2.490)

Excerpt from Wikipedia on [Virgil's Georgics](#)

:

The two predominant philosophical schools in Rome during Virgil's lifetime were [Stoicism](#) and [Epicureanism](#). [Of these two, the Epicurean strain is predominant not only in the *Georgics* but also in Virgil's social and intellectual milieu. Varius Rufus](#), a close friend of Virgil and the man who published the *Aeneid* after Virgil's death, had Epicurean tastes, as did [Horace](#) and his patron Maecenas.

[The philosophical text with the greatest influence on the *Georgics* as a whole was Lucretius' Epicurean epic *De Rerum Natura*. G. B. Conte notes, citing the programmatic statement in *Georgics* 2.490–502, which draws from *De Rerum Natura* 1.78–9, "the basic impulse for the *Georgics* came from a dialogue with Lucretius." Likewise, David West remarks in his discussion of the plague in the third book, Virgil is "saturated with the poetry of Lucretius, and its words, phrases, thought and rhythms have merged in his mind, and become transmuted into an original work of poetic art."](#)