

Sunday, June 21, 2025 - Zoom Discussion 12:30 PM EST - Lucretius Book Review - Lucretius Book 1 - 734 - More on Issues Regarding What Things Are Made Of

Post by “Bryan” of June 14, 2026 at 3:45 PM

[Raphael Raul](#)

I wanted to follow up on the reference to 30,000 in Empedocles. The line, which is attributed to Empedocles by Plutarch and Hippolytus of Rome, is:

“it [*i.e.*, a fallen daimon/spirit] has wandered away from the blessed ones for three times ten-thousand periods of time.”

(τρίσιν μιν μυριάς ὥρας ἀπὸ μακάρων ἀλάλῃσθαι).

Whether this means “seasons” or “lifetimes” is not clear, but more literally it refers to “seasons” or “spans of time.”

The extended quote given by Hippolytus, pictured below (Loeb 528, page 369), makes the reincarnation aspect clear. While reading that keep this quote of Empedocles in mind “As for me, once I was already both a boy and a girl, a bush and a bird, and a sea-leaping, voyaging fish.” (D13)

Interestingly, this quote also uses the word “μάκαρες” (“blessed ones”), from the same makar-root familiar from Epicurus’ language about blessedness and the blessed gods.