

# Online Book Discussion for Lucretius and DeWitt's "Epicurus and His Philosophy"

Post by "Cassius" of August 12, 2019 at 12:59 PM

For the Lucretius discussion, let's plan to use the versions listed below:

We will probably refer to several translations during the discussion so we can compare meanings of the difficult passages, but below is what I think we should use as the base. Two important caveats: (1) I think we should skip over the "poetic" versions in favor of the narrative translations, as the narratives are intended to be the most accurate and faithful to the original meaning, and (2) It will be best to use the public domain versions so that the same edition is available to everyone:

1. The most recent public domain version is Cyril Bailey's, and that is the one I think we should refer to primarily. It is well regarded, written by an eminent Epicurus scholar, and is accessible to everyone at Archive.org: <https://archive.org/stream/onnatur...age/n3/mode/2up>

2. On any issues that appear to be unclear, all of us can refer to several other translations, next in order of time and authority being Hugh Munro: <https://archive.org/stream/in.erne...age/n5/mode/2up>

3. I have found that even though it is considerably older, the Daniel Browne 1743 edition is frequently easier to understand than Bailey or Munro: <https://archive.org/stream/tlucret...age/n9/mode/2up>

Most of the text of these three editions is transcribed here, so we can cut and paste to use in online discussion: [https://epicureanfriends.com/wiki/doku.php?...ature\\_of\\_things](https://epicureanfriends.com/wiki/doku.php?...ature_of_things)

Of course for those of us who have access, we can refer to the Martin Ferguson Smith / Hackett Publishing edition, which I think is probably the most current cutting-edge academic version. <https://www.amazon.com/Nature-Things-Lucretius/dp/0872205878>