

Lucretius EpicureanFriends PDF Reference Edition - General Comments

Post by “Todd” of October 5, 2019 at 2:30 PM

The passage starts discussing the qualities of things, for which "essentials" and "accidents" are typical philosophical descriptions, however problematic for the modern reader.

I think it's safe to substitute "non-essential" or "non-essential properties" for "accidental" or "accidents", respectively.

Then all of a sudden, we're talking about events???

The problem arises because Lucretius gives examples that sound more like events than qualities to us. I would translate that loosely as "the condition of bondage or liberty, the state of being rich or poor, at war or at peace". These are accidents because they can change without changing the nature of the subject experiencing them (i.e, a probably a person in this case).

Damn poets. 😊

The overall point, of course, is that these qualities have no existence independent of matter.

I see no implications about necessity as it relates to chance or randomness here. But I see how the idea of events could lead you in that direction.