

Lucretius EpicureanFriends PDF Reference Edition - General Comments

Post by “Joshua” of October 5, 2019 at 5:17 PM

My 2 cents;

The Latin *eventum* is indeed the root of English 'event', and is itself derived from the Latin verb *venio*, "to come". (Compare *venir* in Spanish). Incidentally, this is the same verb from Caesar's notable formulation, **veni, vidi, vici**.

Eventum merely adds the Latin prefix *ex-*, shortened to *e-*; (out)-come. Contrasted with the word *adventum* (or "coming [to]")--which Lucretius uses in the *Musae Invocatio* in book 1--*eventum* doesn't specify a relationship between object and subject. With *adventum*, the object "comes to" the subject. With *eventum*, the object and the subject can be considered separately.

This word is of particular interest to me since it relates to one of my old Literature professors' favorite hobby-horses; What Shakespeare meant by the word "prevent" and what we *think* Shakespeare meant are two different things. In modern idiom, "prevent" means to stop or inhibit. In Shakespeare's day the word did not yet have this connotation; it merely meant "to come/arrive before"--that is, to anticipate. The 1743 translation is old enough that this becomes a legitimate concern; we have to remember that Dr. Samuel Johnson's lexicon of the English Language (the first serious effort of its kind) wasn't even published until 1755.

Quote

Damn poets. 😊

Such happy interview, and fair event

Of love, and youth not lost, songs, garlands, flow'rs,

And charming symphonies, attach'd the heart

Of Adam. Milton's Par. Lost, b. xi.

Edit; I was long in typing; Todd prevented me!!!