

Lucretius - Essential and most important texts

Post by "Cassius" of January 27, 2020 at 3:54 PM

[Quote from Hiram](#)

t's an elaboration of PD 15, VS 33 and Epicurean Fragment 207:

<http://societyofepicurus.com/porphyrys-epistle-to-marcella/>

Yes I was thinking that it probably was something fairly mild about mild pleasure and reconciling ourselves to little, since that is what so many people seem to be interested in reading. And I see he was a NeoPlatonist so his interpretations are suspect ---- does he even cite Epicurus as his source? Looks to me like this is perhaps just another Seneca- like or Marcus-Aurelius-like mashup of totally untrustworthy conclusions, but I haven't had time to read back into the detail, just scanned your page.

GEEZ why can't people just focus and cite Epicureans rather than going for Neo-Platonists, especially for "foundational texts for an audiobook"? But I know the answer - they aren't targeting Epicurean views, they are targeting their views of what they would LIKE Epicurus to have stood for, which is pretty much Stoicism lite --

On the other hand he can't be all bad in my book even if he was a neoPlatonist if this is true:

Against the Christians (Adversus Christianos)

See also: [Celsus](#)

Porphyry, a detail of the *Tree of Jesse*, 1535, [Sucevița Monastery](#).

During his retirement in Sicily, Porphyry wrote *Against the Christians* (Κατὰ Χριστιανῶν; *Adversus Christianos*) which consisted of fifteen books. Some thirty Christian apologists, such as Methodius, Eusebius, Apollinaris, Augustine, Jerome, etc., responded to his challenge. In fact, everything known about Porphyry's arguments is found in these refutations, largely because Theodosius II ordered every copy burned in A.D. 435 and again in 448.^{[10][11][12][13]}

Porphyry became one of the most able pagan adversaries of Christianity of his day. His aim was not to disprove the substance of Christianity's teachings but rather the records within which the teachings are communicated.^[14]