

Episode Nine - The Evidence That Atoms Exist, Even Though They Are Unseen

Post by "Don" of March 13, 2020 at 5:44 AM

I can see your perspective (Oops, no pun intended there). These kinds of ambiguous or hard-to-interpret lines reinforce facts like we're dealing with:

- a language in which no one alive today can really be 100% fluent (Latin as it was spoken and understood by actual Romans)
- a manuscript transmission for which it is impossible to know if it was 100% accurately transcribed.
- a philosophy for which we've lost so much primary source material and have to rely on fragments and so much secondhand and often hostile commentators.

It's not impossible to take all these into account and interpret texts and try to follow Epicurus' path, but it is often all seen through a glass darkly to bring that whole vision analogy back in...

OMG! That *just* stuck me as I write that! I *think* I Corinthians 13:12 could be saying something parallel (but supernatural) to that line in Lucretius in a similar poetic manner. The Amplified Bible has:

[12 For now \[in this time of imperfection\] we see in a mirror dimly \[a blurred reflection, a riddle, an enigma\], but then \[when the time of perfection comes we will see reality\] face to face. Now I know in part \[just in fragments\], but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known \[by God\].](#)

Please don't misinterpret! This Pauline poetic metaphorical language about vision just struck me. I'm not implying or ascribing ANY supernatural or Christian content in or connection to Lucretius, just that using poetic metaphor in DRN like this conveys something - for us - like our vision isn't capable of seeing the reality of atoms with our eyes through our limited vision but Epicurus was the first to be able to "see" reality face-to-face through those "barred doors" and to share that with us so we could "see" it, too.

Okay, I realize I'm descending down the rabbit hole on this one. 😊 Time to climb my way back to the sunlit world and move along in the poem.