

# Starting Discussion of "Free Will"

Post by "Maciej" of January 29, 2018 at 7:59 PM

Another fragment from Lucretius Drn 4.878 -898 same translation

"Now I will explain how it is that we can step forward when we wish, and move our limbs at will, and what the force is that propels the huge bulk of our body. I want you to take in what I say.

I maintain, as I have maintained before, that first of all images of movement present themselves to the mind and impinge on it. Then comes the act of will: no one can begin to do anything until the mind has foreseen what it wills to do; and what it foresees is determined by the image. So, as soon as the mind stirs itself in such a way that it wishes to move forward, it acts on the spirit, whose force is disseminated through all the limbs and members of the body; and this is easily done, since mind and spirit are intimately connected. The spirit in its turn acts on the body, and so little by little a forward motion is imparted to the whole mass.

Moreover, once in motion, the body becomes rarefied and air, as one would expect of a substance that is always quick to move, penetrates the opened pores in an abundant stream and is thus distributed to every minute part of the body. So the body is driven forward by these two separate forces like a vessel propelled by the action of wind upon its sails."