

Notes On Non-Religious-Based Objections To Darwin And Their Relation to "Evolution" Sections of Lucretius

Post by "Don" of May 30, 2020 at 11:09 AM

This is a fascinating thread and full of new information. Thanks for posting, [Cassius](#) !

I realize everyone here is already aware of all this, but I have to state that I find Lucretius's exposition of Epicurus's thinking on evolution (since I've read that Lucretius was arguably using Epicurus's multi-volume masterwork *On Nature* as his guide) amazingly -- shockingly -- prescient. I have a hard time wrapping my brain around the fact that Epicurus was formulating his ideas almost two-thousand years before Darwin: Evolution isn't aiming that's any goal. Tongues and arms evolve and, **if** they're useful for something, they continue to evolve.

Quote

...nothing at all was born in the body that we might be able to use it, but what is born creates its own use. Nor did sight exist before the light of the eyes was born, nor pleading in words before the tongue was created, but rather the birth of the tongue came long before discourse, and the ears were created much before sound was heard, and in short all the limbs, I trow, existed before their use came about: they cannot then have grown for the purpose of using them.

I find that someone so long before Darwin was writing like this absolutely awe-inspiring in the best sense.

I found a [great illustration of the gradual, incremental, almost-imperceptible pace of evolution in a video of the evolution of the face](#). Paleoartist John Gurche charts his "direct ancestors" through human evolution ending with the artist's own face.