

# EpicureaPoetica—Epicurean Themes in Poetry [Video Project]

**Post by “Joshua” of July 21, 2020 at 1:29 PM**

In our recent meeting I mentioned an idea I've been kicking around lately. This is a thread to flesh out the project, and to invite comment and feedback.

Recent major projects have been the group reading of DeWitt, and the ongoing and very dedicated podcast on the close reading of Lucretius. We have additionally been enriched by the rebirth of a classical tradition; the 'feast' (or celebration) and meeting of the Twentieth. These have been excellent and informative, as well as richly inspiring!

But there is as well a large and mostly formless mass of secondary literature pertaining to our school, and I feel that there is an opportunity here to shed new light on some of it.

Working on the model of [LatinPerDiem](#), I envision brief, simple and crisp presentations exploring the shorter poetic works of Epicureans and their detractors: Horace and Virgil; Philodemus, Anacreon, and Catullus; Frederick the Great, Edmund Spenser, and Alfred Tennyson. Lucretius was particularly influential, and the borrowings innumerable, so there will be a lot to work with.

The planned first 'Episode' will explore themes of madness, death and suicide in Tennyson's masterful Victorian poem "*Lucretius*". I am still looking for a proper and corrected sample of the text, but in the mean time I have been studying the poem [Here](#).

One key to my analysis will be a short section of another of Tennyson's poems, which you can find [Here](#). Careful readers will notice the certain allusion to Lucretius that doubtfully concludes the passage. (I'll post this passage later when I find it.)

If you happen to read the poem and there are points you would like to see touched upon, I encourage you to post them here! I look forward to putting this together.

-Joshua