

Starting A Collection to Remaining Fragments from "On Nature"

Post by "Cassius" of December 23, 2021 at 6:41 AM

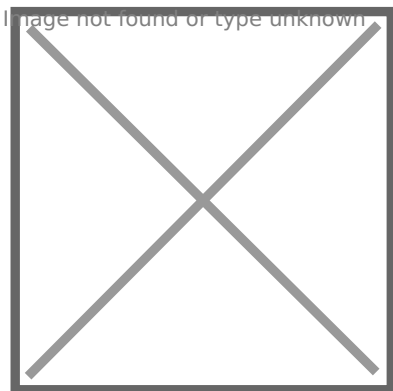
Seeing how much progress that @Nate has made on collecting the various translations of the [Principal Doctrines](#) makes me realize that it would truly be a worthy project to work on collecting the surviving excerpts from "On Nature." The only form in which I understand them to be accessible is in articles by David Sedley and a few others, but I don't even have a list of those articles, much less the core excerpts cut and pasted into a usable list.

Of course we can't and should not try to duplicate those full academic articles, but it would certainly be useful to produce a collection of the translated excerpts, noted as to the article/source from which they come, and listed (as best we can tell) in the right order.

This thread and subforum can be used to make notes on that by anyone who is interested in helping with this, and perhaps at some point someone like Nate can perhaps produce a PDF with the collection in better form.

Post by "Don" of December 23, 2021 at 8:02 AM

A big one

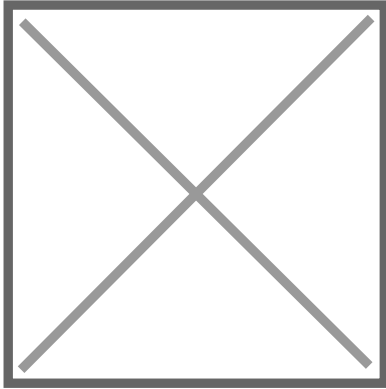


[Epicurus, On nature, book 28](#)

Epicurus, On nature, book 28

www.academia.edu

On Nature, Book 28



["Do Animals Have Freewill? Epicurus, On Nature XXV, 20 B and 20j Long-Sedley",](#)

The view of P. Huby and D. N. Sedley that animals according to Epicurus have freewill is discussed and rejected

www.academia.edu

Do Animals Have Free Will: On Nature, Book 25 excerpts

If we could get our hands on issues of the Cronache Ercolanesi (Herculaneum Chronicle)!

<https://cispe.org/cronache-ercolanesi/>

Post by "Don" of December 23, 2021 at 8:07 AM

Hiram also laid out the Books as outlined in Les Epicuriens

[Epicurus' On Nature](#)

I am currently re-reading Epicurus' Books On Nature in Les Epicuriens, which is based on lectures given by Epicurus. We know that they were given late in...

epicureandatabase.wordpress.com

And there's always Sedley's The Transformation of Greek Wisdom for the topics covered in each Book. I can't remember whether there are excerpts or not off-hand.

Post by "Cassius" of December 23, 2021 at 8:09 AM

There are also significant passages in DeLattres "Les Epicuriennes" which I have if someone can make use of it, but its French not in English.

Post by "Don" of December 23, 2021 at 8:13 AM

[Epicurus: Fragments - translation](#)

This link gives the fragments available at the time from the books of On Nature.

Post by "Don" of December 23, 2021 at 10:11 AM

[Chartes - Papyri](#)

Post by "Don" of December 23, 2021 at 10:12 AM

[Authors A-Z](#)

Post by "Don" of December 23, 2021 at 10:16 AM

[Online Resources on Herculaneum Papyri | The Herculaneum Society](#)

I realize these last few posts are not translations, but some at least have notations to which Herculaneum Papyri have fragments of On Nature in them. Then one could use those Papyri numbers to search for translations elsewhere. Those links also give a graphic image of how fragmentary some of these are!

Post by “Godfrey” of December 24, 2021 at 2:05 AM

Another source to consider is David Sedley's book *Lucretius and the Transformation of Greek Wisdom*. As I recall, in that book he constructed an outline of *On Nature* and compared it with *De Rerum Natura*. It's been a while since I read it but at the time it seemed to be something of a treasure trove: maybe not so much for specific translations but as an overall guide to review before starting to compile the fragments.

Post by “Cassius” of December 24, 2021 at 6:15 AM

Yes Godfrey, by chance I pulled that out again this morning, remembering not only your comment but also Don's regular citation of how valuable this work is.

Chapter 4 of the book is devoted to "On Nature," and according to the table of contents you are correct - Sedley devotes some 40 pages and 13 sections to examining what we know about the book and its likely outline.

To this moment I still have not read anything but pieces of it but this looks to be a likely place to start for an overview of the situation.

Post by “Cassius” of December 24, 2021 at 6:38 AM

Sedley's footnote 2 on page 97 of *Lucretius and the Transformation of Greek Wisdom* lists a number of sources and says "In the meantime, Arrighetti (1973) offers a comprehensive collection of the Nat. papyri, based on what at the time were the best available editions plus, in some cases, Arrighetti's own further readings.

No doubt that's not in English.

So that was apparently the situation in 2004 when Sedley published *LATTOGW*, and we need to know if that situation has changed in the last 17 years.