

Lucretius - Side-By-Side English and Latin Versions

Post by “Cassius” of March 28, 2025 at 4:54 PM

Until I set up a separate thread I'll continue to post here updates on getting a side-by-side version of Lucretius.

At present I now have all of book one available in Latin, Dunster, Munro, and Bailey here:

[Side By Side viewer](#)

There will be lots of typos during the process of getting a workable version up and I'll correct them in waves as I make progress on each book.

I have been debating whether to separate these into six separate files, out of concern that the file size would slow down the rendering, but at present things are still pretty snappy so I'll go for getting them all in one file, and that will make word searching a lot easier.

Another place I am sure there will be errors is cross-matching the beginning of each english section with the correct section in Latin.

the problem is that the sections (by approximate line number) are pretty arbitrary, and in order to get this done I'm going pretty fast and that makes it harder to be certain that I'm finding the right latin section (since my Latin isn't superb in the first place).

If anyone sees any obvious mismatches please let me know and I'll correct them.

Post by “Bryan” of March 28, 2025 at 6:50 PM

This looks beautiful! There is an insignificant *font* disparity at 1-859 and 1-998, but the text is correctly matched.

One mismatch here:

sequantur
neve ruant caeli tonitralia templa
superne 1105
terraque se pedibus raptim subducat
et omnis
inter permixtas rerum caelique ruinas
corpora solventes abeat per inane
profundum,
temporis ut puncto nihil extet
reliquiarum
desertum praeter spatium et
primordia caeca.

would be left but desert empty space,
and senseless seeds. For in whatever
part you will suppose the seeds to
separate, here will be the gate of death
to bodies; for matter through the
breach will rush abroad, and press
with mighty force.

in from above and the earth in an
instant withdraw from beneath our
feet and amid the commingled ruins
of things in it and of heaven, ruins
unloosing the first bodies, should
wholly pass away along the
unfathomable void, so that in a
moment of time not a wrack should be
left behind, nothing save untenanted
space and viewless first-
beginnings. For on whatever side you
shall first determine first bodies to be
wanting, this side will be the gate of
death for things, through this the
whole crowd of matter will fling itself
abroad.

things on earth and of the sky,
whereby the frames of bodies are
loosed, it pass away through the deep
void, so that in an instant of time not
a wrack be left behind, except emptied
space and unseen first-beginnings.
For on whatever side you maintain
that the bodies fail first, this side will
be the gate of death for things, by this
path will all the throng of matter cast
itself abroad.

1-1107

nam qua cumque prius de parti
corpora desse
constitues, haec rebus erit pars ianua
leti,

1-1107

If this you thoroughly know, and little
pains will serve (for one thing by
another you'll explain), no more shall
darkness interrupt your way, but you

1-1107

If you will thoroughly con these
things, then carried to the end with
slight trouble (you will be able by
yourself to understand all the rest. For

1-1107

These things you will learn thus, led
on with little trouble; for one thing
after another shall grow clear, nor will
blind night snatch away your path

Post by “Eikadistes” of March 28, 2025 at 10:28 PM

EXCELLENT! This is a fantastic resource.

Post by “Cassius” of March 29, 2025 at 9:26 PM

I made a lot of progress today and completed the "coding" I needed for all six books, but when I loaded them into github the site now seems to choke with a 'loading' message.

May have to split them up by book to make it workable but if someone checks the site for the time being that's the reason it's not working.

Post by “Cassius” of March 30, 2025 at 4:34 PM

Well I've run into a situation that the code from github is choking whenever I exceed a certain size limit, so there's no way I can get more than two translations side by side at a time.

I might play further with the github code, but I think in the meantime I'm going to go with pure html (courtesy of Chatgpt) and be satisfied for the moment with this version:

[Markdown Side-by-Side](#)

It's not as polished as the other version and has lots of quirks to work out.

Post by “Godfrey” of March 30, 2025 at 7:32 PM

Nice!

Post by “Cassius” of March 31, 2025 at 3:36 PM

Today I have made some significant improvements to the operation of the side-by-side Lucretius.

I know there are many rough edges, but if anyone has suggestions or comments please be sure to let me know and I will see what I can do!

[Lucretius Side-by-Side](#)

Post by “Eikadistes” of March 31, 2025 at 6:18 PM

This is an exceptional resource. I'm sharing links on my hosted Munro pages. I'm looking forward to the other books as well! This sort of tool really is invaluable in becoming familiar with the language.

Post by “Cassius” of March 31, 2025 at 7:41 PM

Eikadistes I am not sure whether you saw today's version or not, but I think I now have it fairly stable and I don't intend drastic revisions that would jeopardize the current functionality.

I have all six books of the Latin, Bailey, Dunster, and Munro all selectable so you can view any combination of them or them all.

When you click in the left column to go to a section, the URL updates so that if you then share the URL, then paste it into another browser, then the page will open to the right section.

I'd like to implement true synchronized scrolling like the other software had, but that's proving to be a problem, and as it is, it's set up so that if you click on the left bar then all of the columns do move the selected line number to the top of the page, where they are even. If you then use the left and right arrows in the center of the header, you can move forward and backward with the section you're looking for moved to the top of the screen where they are aligned.

So this is the version I expect to use for a while, and now most of my effort will probably be devoted to cleaning up final artifacts in the text.

I debated whether I should remove the line breaks from the Latin version, but I gather that knowing where the lines end does carry with it some degree of information, so rather than delete those I'm leaving the lines in poem form -- at least for now.