

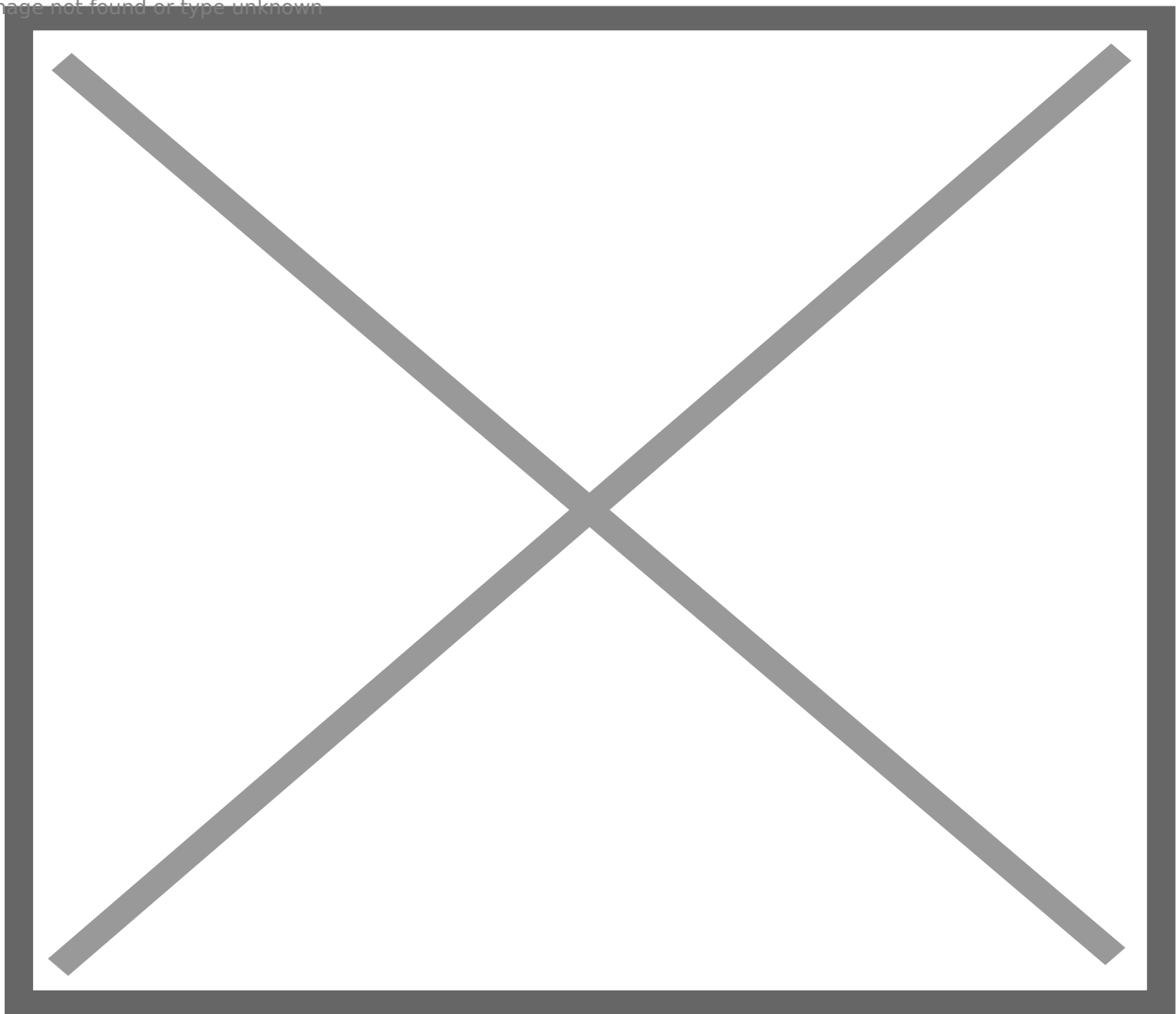
# Sunday February 1, 2026 - Zoom Meeting - Lucretius Book Review - Book One Lines 136-146

Post by "Cassius" of January 31, 2026 at 8:50 PM

Yes that's right -- we are still talking about Line 136 because we ended up devoting our last regular session to a further discussion of consciousness, and we did not reach 136 at that time.

We'll therefore start with 136 and go as far as time allows, which won't be more than to 1-146 at most!

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## 1-136

Nor does it pass unnoticed of my mind that it is a hard task in Latin verses to set clearly in the light the dark discoveries of the Greeks, above all when many things must be treated in new words, because of the poverty of our tongue and the newness of the themes; yet your merit and the pleasure of your sweet friendship, for which I hope, urge me to bear the burden of any toil, and lead me on to watch through the calm nights, searching by what words, yea and in what measures, I may avail to spread before your mind a bright light, whereby you may see to the heart of hidden things.

## 1-146

This terror then, this darkness of the mind, must needs be scattered not by the rays of the sun and the gleaming shafts of day, but by the outer view and the inner law of nature; whose first rule shall take its start for us from this, that nothing is ever begotten of nothing by divine will.

Fear forsooth so constrains all mortal men, because they behold many things come to pass on earth and in the sky, the cause of whose working they can by no means see, and think that a divine power brings them about. Therefore, when we have seen that nothing can be created out of nothing, then more rightly after that shall we discern that for which we search, both whence each thing can be created, and in what way all things come to be without the aid of gods.

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### Post by “Kalosyni” of February 1, 2026 at 12:23 PM

Here is this same section, translated by Johnston:

#### Quote

"I am not unaware how difficult it is to clarify in Latin verse obscure matters discovered by the Greeks, above all since we must deal with many things employing new words, because our language is impoverished and the subject new. But your own excellence and the pleasure I look forward to from your sweet friendship are prompting me to finish any work, no matter how demanding, urging me to stay awake throughout the peaceful night, seeking words and verse where I can at last hold up a clear light for

your mind, and you can see into the hidden core of things.

And so this terror, this darkness of mind, must be dispelled, not by rays from the sun or bright shafts of daylight, but by reason and the face of nature. And we will start to weave her first principle as follows: nothing is ever brought forth by the gods from nothing.<sup>1</sup> That is, of course, how, through fear, all mortal men are held in check—they view many things done on earth and in the sky, effects whose causes they cannot see at all, and so they assume that such things happen because of gods. Hence, once we understand that nothing can be produced from nothing, <sup>210</sup> then we shall more accurately follow what we are looking for, how everything can be created and all work can be done without any assistance from the gods."

<https://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/lucretius/lucretiusall.pdf>