

Bryan Harris Interlinear Translation Of Lucretius

Post by "Cassius" of May 24, 2026 at 3:23 PM

Bryan has graciously allow us to post here his Interlinear Translation version of Lucretius. We will keep this post updated with the latest version.

[Bryan Harris Book One - DE RERUM NATURA 1.pdf](#)

Post by "Kalosyni" of May 25, 2026 at 9:14 AM

Here is a conversation moved over from private discussion of translation work:

Raphael Raul said:

Bryan, as I mentioned at today's Epicurean Friends meeting, the translation reads very smoothly in English.

I does not have that structural stiffness that older translations do... Also, your color coding and placing the translation below the Latin, so both are visible together, allows the reader to see your choices clearly... excellent work!... Bravo!

Bryan said:

Quote from TauPhi

start learning Latin

Gratias tibi ago, TauPhi-- I really appreciate that!! I have greatly benefited from your encouragement over the years.

Quote from Raphael Raul

does not have that structural stiffness

Thank you, Raphael Raul-- it is a balance. I have also tried, where possible, to use English words that are etymologically related to the Latin. Sometimes, this requires using less common English words...

For example:

"*ómnis énim Cólör omnínō mūtātur ín ómnīs*"

...for every Color is altogether changed into every [color]

However, given Lucretius uses "mūtātur," the word "mutated" is a direct descendant:

...for every Color is altogether mutated into every [color]

Even though "mutated" carries some baggage in English, it pairs better with the Latin, and is technically not incorrect as "mutated" just means "undergoing alteration or change." There are many such cases!

Occasionally, I feel as though I have no choice but to use an uncommon word... I am not too happy that the first word of the entire work is "Ancestress."

Most translators just use "mother" -- but Lucretius consistently uses a different word that means mother, and "Génetrīx" clearly means "a female ancestor from whom a person is descended"

Don said:

Bryan Fantastic work! Very impressive.

Bryan said:

Quote from Don
work

Thank you, Don. As you know, the text of *De Rerum Natura* is very stable compared to our Greek sources. There are only a few locations where the two main manuscripts leave us with lacunas. We are on solid ground here... [] ...in contrast to the P.Hercs., which leave us drowning in a pool of papyrus dust.

This is my cheeky but sincere apology for what comes next: a standalone *On Nature, Περὶ Φύσεως* ΛΖ.

Don said:

Quote from Bryan

in contrast to the P.Hercs., which leave us drowning in a pool of papyrus dust.

Well put. That's a bit of nice wordsmithing there On a serious note, I remain excited about the opportunity and potential of the "read without unrolling" technology. I just hope whatever comes out of that is made publicly available.

Post by "Kalosyni" of May 25, 2026 at 9:18 AM

[Bryan](#)

Quote from Bryan

For example:

"ómnis énim Cólór omnínō mūtātur ín ómnīs"

...for every Color is altogether changed into every [color]

However, given Lucretius uses "mūtātur," the word "mutated" is a direct descendant:

...for every Color is altogether mutated into every [color]

Bryan, would it then be correct to say that: "when every color changes it is a completely different color" ?

Post by "Bryan" of May 25, 2026 at 2:59 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

when every color changes

In this context (DRN 2.749), Lucretius is just explaining that the atoms lack color, and he uses various examples of color shifting on a single object to help make that point.

Post by "Bryan" of May 31, 2026 at 12:06 AM

Hello all, this should be the final update until we get to Book Two.

(There are some spacing issues that will not be resolved until all the books are complete.)

Post by "Don" of May 31, 2026 at 6:56 AM

By Zeus! This is an accomplishment! Well done, [Bryan](#) !

Post by "Godfrey" of May 31, 2026 at 2:50 PM

Quite impressive [Bryan](#) ! Speaking as one who is completely illiterate in Latin, I can say that this is a great resource 👍👍

Post by “Bryan” of May 31, 2026 at 2:57 PM

[Don](#) , [Godfrey](#)

Thank you very much!

I have a quick technical question for you both... when you open the document, does it have a black background, or is the page mostly white?

Post by “Don” of May 31, 2026 at 3:21 PM

[Quote from Bryan](#)

have a quick technical question for you both... when you open the document, does it have a black background, or is the page mostly white?

Black, but I have a nighttime theme running

Post by “Godfrey” of May 31, 2026 at 3:27 PM

Black. I have a daytime theme running. If I switch to nighttime the document goes to shades of gray. I have it open in the ReadEra app.

Post by “Don” of May 31, 2026 at 3:49 PM



Yeah. I can switch to white...

Post by “Bryan” of May 31, 2026 at 4:54 PM

Thank you for this helpful input!

Black pages are my intention, and I am happy that this now seems to be the default.

I do my work with black pages, and I really think that is best way to view it.

Post by “Pacatus” of June 3, 2026 at 1:32 PM

[Bryan](#) Wow! 👍👍👍

Post by “Bryan” of June 5, 2026 at 12:33 AM

The section titles in the text are unlikely to have been placed by Lucretius, but are ancient.

The three manuscripts that *De Rerum Natura* is based on are **Codex Oblongus** (from the early 800s CE), **Codex Quadratus** (from the mid-800s CE), and the partial **Codex Gottorpienses** (from the late 800s CE -- of which less than half is preserved).

Oblongus is the source for the titles, and contains 182 titles. The titles in Gottorpienses, in the sections that survive, agree with Oblongus (allowing for some errors).

Quadratus does have spaces in its text in the same locations as the titles of Oblongus, but only ten of these spaces actually contain the titles.

This suggests that the titles were present in the lost manuscript that was used to create all three surviving manuscripts. The occasional use of Greek for the titles suggests they came from an edition that was created sometime before the 400's CE, (probably as early as the 100's CE).