

***TITUS
LUCRETIUS
CARR***

*“ON THE
NATURE OF
THINGS”.....*

BRIEF DISCUSSION ON:

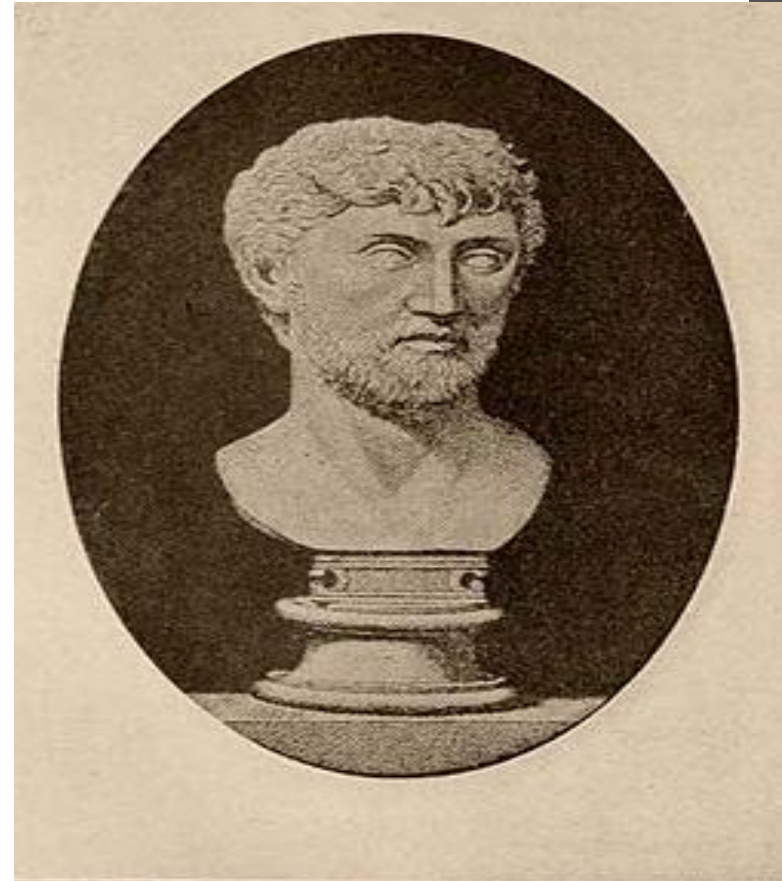
***LIFE OF THE POET**

***HIS POEMS**

***ETHICS**

***INFLUENCE**

***CONCLUSION**



LUCRETIUS.

TITUS LUCRETIVS CARUS

• **Lucretius** (in Latin Titus Lucretius Carus) was a Roman philosopher and poet, and a materialist opponent of religion. Lucretius lived in the first century Before Christ (perhaps from 98 B.C. to 55 B.C.). Lucretius is the author of a classic, **albeit unfinished work** entitled *De Rerum Natura* (“On the Nature of Things”). Written around 60 B.C., *De Rerum Natura* is a long poem passionate describing the world according to the principles of Epicurus.

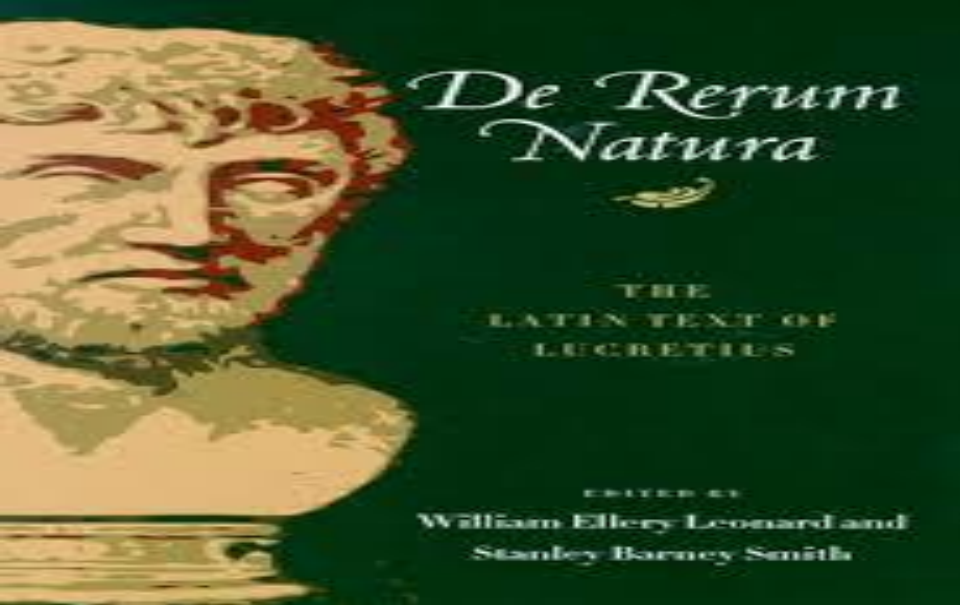
ON THE NATURE OF THINGS

◦The two most authoritative manuscripts of *De Rerum Natura* are the **O** and **Q** codices in Leiden, both dating from the ninth century. Scholars have recently deciphered a manuscript on papyrus scrolls, possibly dating to the first century C.E., which was recovered from a library in Herculaneum that had been buried by a volcanic eruption.

De Rerum Natura has been a continuing influence on the work of a number of epic poets. The sustained energy of Lucretius' writing is unparalleled in Latin literature, with the possible exception of parts of *Annals*, or perhaps *Books II and IV* of the *Aeneid*.

His use of the hexameter is very individualistic and ruggedly distinct from the smooth urbanity of Virgil.

His use of heterodynes, assonance, and oddly Latin forms create a harsh acoustic. Lucretius laments several times that Latin is not as well suited as Greek for the expression of philosophical ideas.



THE NATURE OF THINGS



Lucretius' De rerum natura

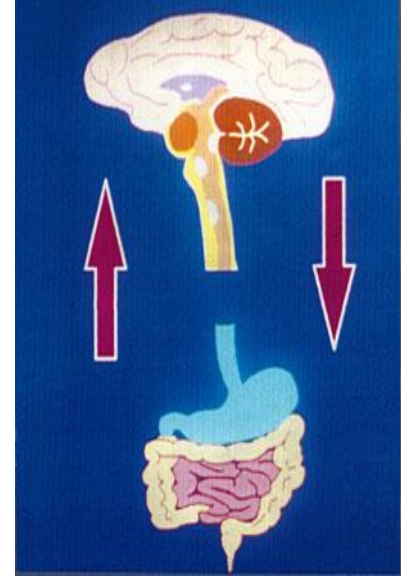
T. LVCRETII CARI
DE RERVM NA-
TVRA LIBER
PRIMVS.



E ne a dum genitrix, hominum
numq; voluptas
A lina Venus, cæli subter lab-
signa
Quæ mare nauigerum, quæ te-
ras frugiferentes

C oncelebras: per te quoniam genus omne animæ
C oncipitur: usq; exornant lumina soles:
T e dea, te fugiunt venti, te nubila cæli:

Book 1 begins with an invocation to Venus. Lucretius identifies Venus with love, the unifying force of , and also as the patron and mother of the Roman people.



Book 2 celebrates philosophy as a sanctuary from the turmoil of the world, contains an explanation of atomic motion and shapes, and explains that atoms do not have secondary attributes such as color and smell.

Book 3 opens with a tribute to Epicurus and goes on to alleviate fear of death by proving that the mind and soul are both material and mortal. "*Niligitur mors est ad nos. . .*" ("Therefore death is nothing to us.")

Book 4 contains verses on the art of didactic poetry and an explanation of Epicurus' theory of vision and sensation. The conclusion is one of Lucretius' greatest passages of verse, analyzing the biology and psychology of sexual love.

Book 5 is devoted to Epicurean cosmology. Lucretius talks about the stages of life on earth, and the origin and development of civilization. This book includes a famous on the development and extinction of life forms.

Book 6 contains some of Lucretius' greatest poetry. Lucretius explains meteorological and includes vivid descriptions of thunderstorms, lightning, and volcanic eruptions. The poem ends with the story of the great plague of Athens .

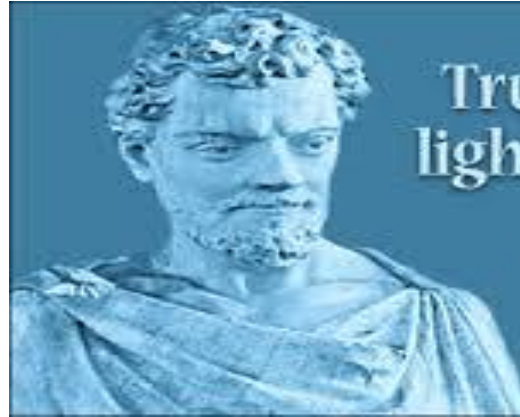
ETHICS

The *De rerum natura* is, as its title confirms, a work of physics, written in the venerable tradition of Greek treatises *On nature*. Nevertheless, Lucretius writes as a complete Epicurean, offering his reader not just cosmological understanding but the full recipe for happiness.

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"Man's greatest wealth is to live on a little with contented mind; for little is never lacking."

Titus Lucretius Carus



Truths kindle
light for truths.

--LUCRETIUS

**BY PROTRACTING
LIFE, WE DO NOT
DEDUCT ONE JOT
FROM THE
DURATION OF
DEATH.**

Titus Lucretius Carus

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Lucretius was both admired and imitated by writers of the early Roman empire, and in the eyes of Latin patristic authors like Lactantius he came to serve as the leading spokesman of the godless Epicurean philosophy. His poem subsequently survived in two outstanding 9th-century manuscripts (known as O and Q)

**WHAT IS FOOD TO
ONE, IS TO OTHERS
BITTER POISON.**

Titus Lucretius Carus

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◦ *De Rerum Natura* (“On the Nature of Things”) was published after the death of Lucretius by the famous Roman writer Cicero (106-43b.c.). Cicero did so after correcting imperfections due to Lucretius’ premature death. Lucretius’ book angered Christianity, perhaps especially because of the following line:
◦ “All religions are equally sublime to the ignorant, useful to the politician, and ridiculous to the philosopher.”

For fools admire and love
those things they see hidden
in verses turned all upside
down, and take for truth what
sweetly strokes the ears and
comes with sound of phrases
fine imbued.

Titus Lucretius Carus

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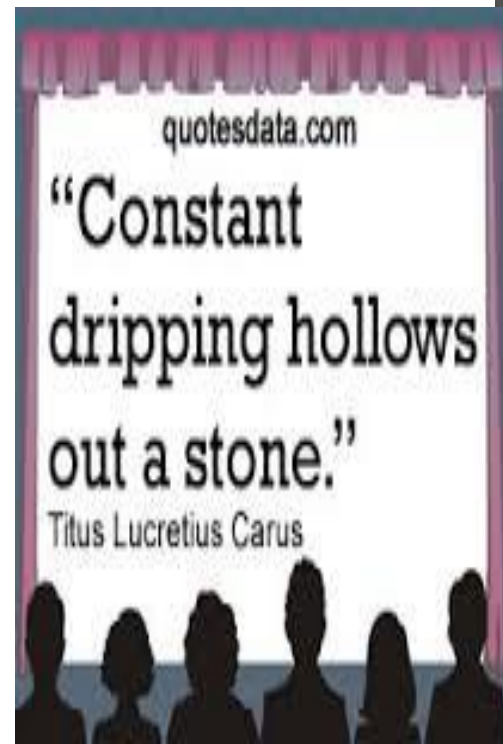
Lucretius committed suicide after becoming half mad by drinking a love potion. Lucretius is thus known to have killed himself with his own hand at the age of **forty-three**. According to the same institution, Lucretius' only poem, *DeRerumNatura*, was written during periods of respite from this delirium.

We know very little about the life of Lucretius. It would appear that Lucretius was a pupil of the Greek philosopher Zeno, of the Eleatic school.



DE RERUM NATURA...

TITUS LUCRETIVS CARUS. THOMAS CREECH



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"Constant
dripping hollows
out a stone."

Titus Lucretius Carus



**LIFE IS ONE LONG
STRUGGLE IN THE
DARK.**

- LUCRETIUS -

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