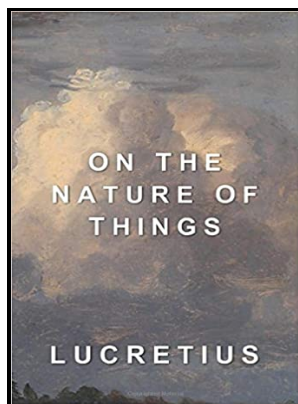


# Lucretius: On the nature of things.

## Encyclopædia Britannica - The Nature of Things by Lucretius



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### Lucretius' On the Nature of Things: Poetry, Materialism, and Pleasure

What I think I may affirm, however, is this: those traces of the different natures which reason is unable to expel from us are so exceedingly slight that there is nothing to hinder us from living lives worthy of gods. The bodies lay there, 1690 totally exhausted.

### Lucretius, On the Nature of Things

Why does death stalk around before his time? Fear holds dominion over mortality Only because, seeing in land and sky So much the cause whereof no wise they know, Men think Divinities are working there. According to the canonic, there are three criteria of truth. Sedley, Lucretius and Transformation of Greek Wisdom 1-34.

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Darwin's dangerous theory or for that matter Mr. So then, it occurred to them that these substances could be melted down with heat and settle into the form and shape of anything, and, in fact, might be molded by hammering into points and edges as sharp and fine as one might wish for. Being parts of the body, they are born with it and die with it.

### Lucretius, On the Nature of Things, Book 6 (English Text)

In the case of sight, however, the contact is, as we have seen, indirect; and the same applies to hearing and smell: these sensations too are caused by effluences entering the relevant sense organs. Further, when you see so many things produced in a certain order, it is difficult to demonstrate by reason, and to evince by argument, why a new moon may not be generated every day, with a certain succession of phases and figures, and each moon, as it diurnally arises, diurnally decay, and another be reproduced in its place and station. Thus amain, Seized with the spell, all creatures follow thee Whithersoever thou walkest forth to lead, And thence through seas and mountains and swift streams, Through leafy homes of birds and greening plains, Kindling the lure of love in every breast, Thou bringest the eternal generations forth, Kind after kind.

### Lucretius' On the Nature of Things: Poetry, Materialism, and Pleasure

For as soon as your philosophy, issuing from your godlike intellect, has begun to proclaim the Nature of things, the terrors of the mind are

dispelled, and the walls of the world fly open. The position of this address to Calliope varies slightly from one editor to another.

### **Lucretius, On the Nature of Things, Book 5 (English Text)**

No speech before the tongue was made, but tongues began long before speech were uttered. For harm and violence entangle everyone, and, for the most part, they rebound on him who was their origin. Now dost see Even as we said a little space above How mightily it matters with what others, In what positions these same primal germs Are bound together? Without fixed seasons of rain, the earth is unable to put forth its produce, nor can anything sustain its own life if separated from its own food.

### **De rerum natura**

Because in many ways the many germs Common to many things are mixed in things, No wonder 'tis that therefore divers things By divers things are nourished.

### **Lucretius on the nature of things (1910 edition)**

And all the other monsters of this kind— who, if they were not overcome, were killed— what damage could they finally inflict, if they were still alive? Add, too, whoever make the primal stuff Twofold, by joining air to fire, and earth To water; add who deem that things can grow Out of the four- fire, earth, and breath, and rain; As first Empedocles of Acragas, Whom that three-cornered isle of all the lands Bore on her coasts, around which flows and flows In mighty bend and bay the Ionic seas, Splashing the brine from off their gray-green waves.

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