

## Lucretius, Book 3: Questions for Study and Discussion

(S. Mace)

1-30 (Epicurus):

On what grounds does L. praise Epicurus?

31-93 What is the cause of vice?

94-416 (Mind and soul)

What is the mind, if not “harmony”? What is the “spirit”?

Where is the mind located? the spirit? What is their nature?

Of what are mind and spirit compounded?

On what does life depend?

Does mind control spirit or vice versa?

417-829 (Arguments for mortality of the soul):

Identify two of the twenty or so arguments for the mortality of soul / spirit that seem to you to be the most convincing (and be prepared to state your reasons):

1.

2.

Identify two of the twenty or so arguments for the mortality of soul / spirit that seem to you to be the least convincing (and be prepared to state your reasons):

1.

2.

830-1094 (“Death is nothing to us”):

What are the advantages of mortality?

What do the stories of the sufferers in the underworld really signify?

What is the source of happiness?

## Lucretius, Book 4: Questions for Study and Discussion

(S. Mace)

1-25 (Introduction):

What does L. emphasize most about his subject matter in this passage?

26-216 (Atomic images):

What analogies illustrate Lucretius' theory of images? What examples?

What kinds of things do images move through? shatter on? bounce back from?

217-721 (Sensation):

List some of the optical illusions L. is interested in accounting for (pp. 109-112). Are the senses or something else responsible?

What is Lucretius' view about the reliability of the senses (lines 469ff.)?

How does Lucretius explain an echo (pp. 115-6)?

What is the evidence that smells are made of larger atoms than sounds (pp. 118-9)?

722-822 (Thought):

What is the source of the compound images described on pp. 119-20 and why are they able to move the mind?

823-1036 (Misc. [food, sleep, dreams, etc.]):

How does L. explain sleep?

What does L. himself dream about?

1037-1287 (Sex):

What is the first remedy for love (p. 129)?

What does L. object to specifically on pp. 129-30?

What is the material toll of erotic love (pp. 130-1)? the psychological toll (pp. 131ff.)?

Do the final dozen or so lines of the book in any way mitigate the effect of Lucretius' diatribe against erotic love (pp. 129-32)?