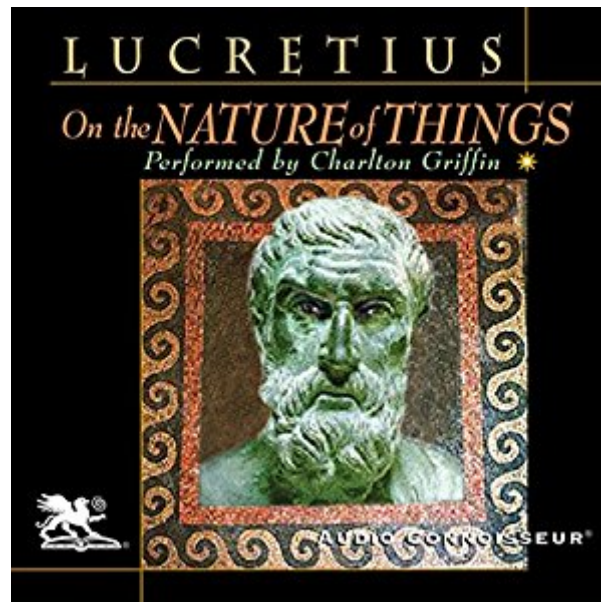




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On The Nature Of Things



Synopsis

A Roman poet and philosopher of the first century, Lucretius sought to dispel what he considered the chief cause of unhappiness: fear of death and fear of the wrath of the gods. His great didactic poem in six parts, *De Rerum Natura* (On the Nature of Things), theorizes that natural causes are the forces behind earthly phenomena and dismisses the concept of divine intervention. Derived from the philosophical materialism of the Greeks, Lucretius' work remains the primary source for contemporary knowledge of Epicurean thought. A staple of introductory philosophy courses, this volume is also a masterpiece of Latin verse. Translation by W. E. Leonard.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

I'm not going to write a book review here, just read it and understand that people have had great thoughts and understanding since well before any of us were born; thousands of years before for that matter. I identify with what he wrote and so am probably quite biased at the philosophy here as it is like looking in a mirror; just weird that I never got around to reading this book before. Tough poem, wish I knew Latin...

Ancient understandings of the cosmos, evolution, atoms, man's place in the animal kingdom, that are spot on. The heralding of the insignificance of any "gods", spirits, fairies, monsters and and such and the insistence of the death of the mind/soul upon the death of the body & no craven desperate need given to the belief of an afterlife, or of a ridiculous place with God, spirits & our souls. All composed in a wonderful poem. It would be like writing a poem of all of our current understandings

"Of The Nature Of Things" - it was a monumental task to execute such a poem, as Lucretius did in his time. This is a must have book for any Humanist, free-thinker, scientifically oriented person. It is also for people who believe in myths, they, perhaps more than anyone -should read Lucretius too. For, it is amazing to learn that the secular, non-religious intellectual opinions of people from around 500 BC were actually quite accurate and concurrent to modern science.

This is the seminal work which re-ignited scientific thinking and began The Enlightenment and the decline of the power of religion and other superstitions. It is a very long poem which showed that Ancient Greeks were on the right track to a scientific revolution 500 or more years BC. Were it not for the rise of Christianity and other authoritarian religions and the attendant destruction of Greek civilization, we would likely have colonies on Mars and even self-sustaining colonies in the Asteroid belt by now.

If you think there's no wonder without mystery, you should read this. The workings of a mechanistic universe are the inspiration for this great work of poetry. If you're already a naturalist, you'll appreciate it even more. Find out why Epicurus and Lucretius were considered impious by theologians who embraced Plato and Aristotle. The atomists may have missed the mark in many of their explanations, but they were right to dismiss supernatural explanations.

We were looking for this book at first for the front cover, which is rare and and his painter is one my husband's favorite artist, then, after we read the book we enjoyed the book more than ever. The seller did an excellent job in sending the book fast (overseas) and the price was appropriate as well, thank you!

I purchased this poem to go along with the book *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* by Steven Greenblatt. *The Swerve* is all about *Of / On the Nature of Things* by Lucretius, and traces the poet's thoughts through western history. I decided that the two audio books made good companions. The poetry of Lucretius is beautiful and inspires much contemplation.

This is a fascinating and at times spellbinding philosophical poem from one of the great minds of ancient Rome. Though we can point to modern science to explain how he doesn't get everything right about how nature works, it is still astonishing to read how much he gets right.

Everyone should read a little Lucretius.

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