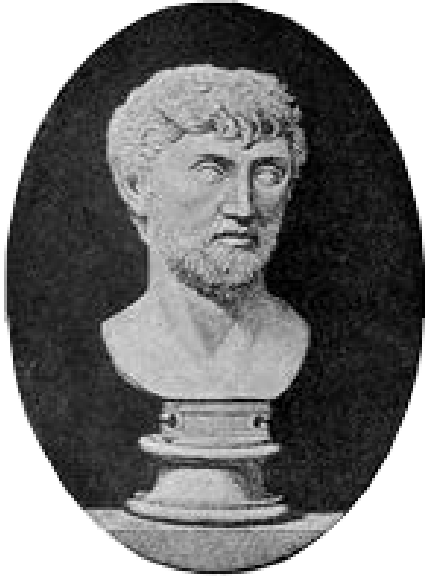




Lucretius

Titus Lucretius Carus, or more commonly known as Lucretius, was an Epicurean poet in the late Roman republican period. Born in 99 BC, he died in 55 BC.

Not much is known about the epic poet, although Jerome, who was considered to be a leading Roman clergyman, argued that a love potion had rendered Lucretius insane and led him to commit suicide.

He is best known for his Six-Book hexameter poem, *De Rerum Natura*. The English translation of the title of his books is translated into, *The nature of the universe or the meaning of life*.

The Book is separated into three matching pairs of books, so there are six books in total;

- 1- The permanent constituents of the universe, Atoms, and Voids.
- 2- How atoms explain phenomena.
- 3- The nature and morality of the soul.
- 4- Phenomena of the soul.
- 5- The cosmos and its mortality.
- 6- Cosmic phenomena.

The first pair of Books; The permanent constituents of the universe, Atoms, and Voids and How atoms explains the world of atoms. The second pair of books; The nature and morality of the soul and Phenomena of the soul discusses human beings and the last pair of books; The cosmos and its mortality and Cosmic phenomena evaluates the cosmos as a whole.

De Rerum Natura had a significant influence on Augustan poets in particular Virgil in his work *Aeneid* and *Georgics*, and to a lesser degree on *Eclogues* and Horace. The epic poem pretty much disappeared from 476 AD–1453 during the Middle Ages, but was rediscovered by Poggio Bracciolini in a monastery in Germany in 1417.

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