

2015

Impact: Reading *De Rerum Natura* in the Rain

Joel Kempff

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Recommended Citation

Kempff, Joel (2015) "Impact: Reading *De Rerum Natura* in the Rain," *The Oval*: Vol. 8 : Iss. 1 , Article 31.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/oval/vol8/iss1/31>

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Impact: Reading *De Rerum Natura* in the Rain

Joel Kempff

By chance,
or simply because it can,
a raindrop forms;
the first of millions that will become a foggy drizzle.
A thousand-thousand instances of chance,
or volition,
all lead to the little droplet's creation,
now falling toward the ground
with a furious tremble.
Not straight down, of course,
but swerving with gusts of wind,
lifting on light breezes,
all the while falling, falling, falling—
the world rushes to meet it.
Until at last,
with all the beauty of infinite chance,
the point impacts a puddle,
making a rising ring of water—a crown for a king—
which lasts for an instant
before settling outward
into waves and ripples like whispers,
and eventually disappearing altogether
into the stillness of that puddle,
left over from some long passed storm,
leaving no sign of its chaotically brief existence,
except for some barely measureable increase in the puddle's depth.

Then, behind that first raindrop,
a light mist of millions similar,
all intent upon impacts like crowns,
begin to gather and fall.