126 quippe etenim non est, cum quovis corpore ut esse posse animi natura putetur consiliumque;
sicut in aethere non arbor, non aequore salso
nubes esse queunt neque pisces vivere in arvis
130 nec cruor in lignis neque saxis sucus inesse.
certum ac dispositum ubi quicquid crescat et insit.
sic animi natura nequit sine corpore oriri
sola neque a nervis et sanguine longius esse.

Writing in *Mnemosyne* ser. iv, vol. vi, fasc. 1 (1953), pp. 57 f., Mr. D. A. Rees argued that v. 131 should be excised as a quasi-
learned interpolation. It is perhaps best to give his reasoning in
his own words: "V. 128-141 is a close, but not an exact, repetition
of iii. 784-97. Among other changes, *denique* is replaced by *sicut*
at the beginning of 128, and this we should expect *sic* in 132 to answer;
but as the passage stands there are sharp breaks at the ends of
130 and 131. 131 thus interrupts what would otherwise be a single
train of thought from 128 to 133, and if we retain it the best course
seems to be to follow Bockemüller and treat it as a parenthesis;
but could an ancient reader, unprovided with modern typogra-
phical aids, be expected to construe the lines in so intricate a
fashion? Should not 131, therefore, be excised as an interpolation
from iii, 787, inserted to follow 130 = iii. 786?"

Since, as I shall show, the line in question is not really parentheti-
cal at all, I shall pass over the question of the reader's recognition
of parentheses as such; though it might be inquired whether this
line, if it *were* a parenthesis, would differ greatly in difficulty from
such an expression as is found, e.g. in Ovid *Metam.* ii. 839 ff.,

quiaque tuam matrem tellus a parte sinistra
suspicit (indigenae Sidonida nomine dicunt),
hanc pete...
where the intrusive clause, as here, merely gives additional information and is not marked by form or connective.

The crux of the problem, however, is whether l. 131 is actually intrusive, whether it breaks up a formal comparison begun with *sicut* in 130 and continued with *sic*. To put it more succinctly, *should* we expect *sic* to answer *sicut*?

The answer, I believe, is no. *Sicut* is rarely used in classical Latin poetry; *sicut . . . sic*, hardly at all. Ovid, for example, uses *sicut* 28 times; in only one of these instances, *Fasti* ii. 231 ff., does *sic* answer,*

\[
sicut aper longe silvis Laurentibus actus
\]
\[
fulmineo celeres dissipat ore canes,
\]
\[
mox tamen ipse perit, sic non moriuntur inulti
\]
\[
vulneraque alterna dantque feruntque manu,
\]

where *sicut* may have been employed to avoid too close a verbal correspondence with the evident source of the simile, *Aeneid* x 707 ff., which has *velut*. Again, in the one instance of *sicut* that can definitely be attributed to Vergil, *Aeneid* vii. 22, *sic* is nowhere to be found. The same can be said of *Culex* 247 and *Dirae* 154 (*Lydia* 50).

It might be expected that, because of the great dependence of the Epicurean Canonice on *διόμοιατις* and *ἀναλογία*, *sicut* would find much more constant employment in the *De Rerum Natura*. Such, however, is not the case. The word occurs only seven more times (in addition to v. 128) in the poem (ii. 536, 847; iii. 812, 816; v. 357, 361, 813), and in two instances we have to do with repetitions (iii. 812, 816 = v. 357, 361). Yet even such a small yield can give information. It is certainly worthy of note that in *none* of these instances is *sicut* answered by *sic*, and only once (ii. 847) is it answered at all—a construction depending on Lachmann's *propter eandem rem* at ii. 854, which is sound paleographically and linguistically, but makes for rather tortured logic 1).

1) This passage gains quite a bit in clarity if the *sicut* clause in 847 ff. is taken as an explanation of the general principle stated in 842-6. In this case, it might be best to drop Lachmann's *propter eandem rem* in 847 and read, with Marullus, *propter eandem tandem*, or better, *propter eandem demum* with Lambinus. The structure would then be: (1) General Principle (842-846); (2) Illustration of (1) (847-853); (3) Wider application of (2) (854-864).