

Philodemus On Piety

Post by "Don" of December 12, 2020 at 11:18 AM

I think it's also important to look at the actual word that Philodemus uses in his title:

EYCEBEIA (eusebeia)

[http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...ntry=eu\)se/beia](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...ntry=eu)se/beia)

Yes, the convenient single word English translation is "piety" but LSJ also gives the fuller "reverence towards the gods or parents, piety or filial respect."

Related to [http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...entry=eu\)sebh/s](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...entry=eu)sebh/s)

I get the sense that it implies an obligation (providing what is due to someone, e.g., taxes to the emperor)

I don't want to get into the trap that we get fixated on the English without examining what word Philodemus uses... AND when that word is extant, or lightly missing a letter or two but easily read, or completely missing and added in by scholars from context (and makes sense) or added in by scholars blue-skying it. When we have the ancient words, it behooves us to dig into those. THAT'S what Philodemus said, and to quote Dr Seuss, we have to assume he said what he meant and meant what he said.