

Foundations 005 - By His Victory Religion Is Trampled Underfoot

Post by "Cassius" of August 11, 2021 at 1:50 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Sorry. I love digging in the weeds of language!

No reason for apology at all. As we have AMPLY seen, the translators - even in narrative form - cannot be trusted not to do their own editorializing by omitting or adding words/concepts. The only way to be confident in the final result is to check them.

I do think that we can form a generalized impression of a particular writer -- such as my own views which I constantly revise but that I will list here:

Munro tends to be highly literal but can be awkward to read; **Bailey** is a more polished version of Munro but is much less to be trusted in his interpretations because he is not ultimately a fan of Epicurus' views; **Brown** editorializes but frequently seems most trustworthy in interpreting Epicurus; **Smith** has access to the latest and best scholarship but regularly editorializes and may be less trustworthy than Brown; **Stallings** has a good feel for the poetry but is probably not a reliable indicator on deep philosophy; **Humphries** has a good feel for the poetry but probably goes too far in some of his poetic flights ("the way things are").

Might actually be a good idea to set up a table of our impressions of the various translators. There will never be a way to judge them "objectively" but might be helpful to compare subjective opinions.