

Sept. 7, 2022 - Epicurean Philosophy Zoom Discussion

Post by "Don" of September 7, 2022 at 10:33 PM

The "nearby" is misleading in that translation. As always, @Nate 's compilation is helpful but here's two:

Hicks translation

25If you do not on every separate occasion refer each of your actions to the chief end of nature, but if instead of this in the act of choice or avoidance you swerve aside to some other end, your acts will not be consistent with your theories.

Saint-Andre translation

25If at all critical times you do not connect each of your actions to the natural goal of life, but instead turn too soon to some other kind of goal in thinking whether to avoid or pursue something, then your thoughts and your actions will not be in harmony.

Plus, here's the Epicurus Wiki commentary:

[Principal Doctrine 25 - Epicurus Wiki](#)

It seems to me that this PD is just saying "walk the walk, don't just talk the talk." If you're going to profess following the "natural goal of life" (pleasure) but you don't make your choices and rejections based on that, your actions will not "be in harmony" with your beliefs.