

New Christos Yapijakis Article: "The Philosophical Management of Stress"

Post by "Little Rocker" of January 8, 2023 at 3:07 PM

The weirdest part of the commentary that Don kindly posted (and there's a wealth of weirdness) is the claim about 39: 'all through, the neuter really implies persons.' In other words, the fact that Epicurus uses neuter plural means he could be talking about people or things. But in this case I agree, so at some point my efforts yielded the following very literal rendering, which I certainly won't fight for to the death:

"The one who best contrived against a lack of confidence about external threats made those he was able kin, while those he was unable, he did not make aliens. Those with whom he was not able to do even this, he avoided and banished so far as it was advantageous to do so."

The 'with whom' gives away my decision to go with 'persons,' but basically, you would have reason to translate it either way. That said, the opening construction is loosely the same in KD 40, and it does seem pretty clear there he's talking about people. So who knows, really?

The truth is that Epicurus tends to just sort of make up grammar and new uses for prepositions, and people are always like, 'why in the world is this genitive' or 'to which of three possible antecedents does this use of 'these' refer.' I love Epicurus, but I stand by my verdict that translating him is like a steady diet of burnt toast.