

# Presenting the Principal Doctrines in Narrative Form

Post by "Martin" of June 22, 2023 at 5:40 AM

Quote

I'm wondering if [Martin](#) is able to determine where the 44 comes from in the German translation.

This is in reply to Don's comment #19.

The German translation referenced in #18 has 44 numbered [Principal Doctrines](#).

It claims to be the first translation of Diogenes Laertius' "History of Philosophy" directly from Greek to German and acknowledges older indirect translations from translations into other languages.

While browsing through the foreword, I did not find anything on the numbering but the following noteworthy statements to quote:

P. VI (12) "Wir vergessen oft das Jahr, wo wir uns trauen liessen, ...":

"We often forget the year in which we got married, ..."

(in the context of the difficulty of correctly establishing the ancient chronology).

P. X (16) "Denn der griechische Text des Laertios ist voll Unrichtigkeiten, und daher sehr oft nicht nur dunkel, sondern beinahe unverstaendlich, und unerklaerbar; dies gilt vorzueglich von dem Lehrsystem des Platon, der Stoiker, von dem ganzen dogmatischen Theile des zehnten Buches, wo beinahe nicht mehr fortzukommen war, und wo ich also oft vielmehr den Oedipus als den Uebersetzer machen musste.":

"For the Greek text of Laertius is full of mistakes and therefore very often not only obscure but almost incomprehensible; this is particularly true of the doctrinal system of Plato, the Stoics, of the whole dogmatic part of the tenth book, where it was almost impossible to get any further, and where I therefore often had to do Oedipus rather than the translator."

(I am not sure what doing Oedipus means here and wonder whether the translator rather meant Sisyphus.)