

If Death Is Nothing To Us, Then Life Is Everything to Us

Post by "Don" of October 7, 2023 at 9:53 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I am also very interested in your comment on whether Vatican Collection 42 is being emended by translators. We may have covered it already but I don't recall.

For reference, this is VS42 from Saint-Andre:

42. At the very same time, the greatest good is created and the greatest evil is removed.

ὁ αὐτὸς χρόνος καὶ γενέσεως τοῦ μεγίστου ἀγαθοῦ καὶ ἀπολύσεως <τοῦ κακοῦ>.

I would have to check the manuscripts, but the brackets around <τοῦ κακοῦ> leads me to believe that's added. In fact, Bailey had "XLII. The greatest blessing is created and enjoyed at the same moment." So he doesn't amend. Here's his comment:

σαρκὸς φωνή.

XLII. A rather obscure fragment, which it is impossible to interpret with certainty without its context. τὸ μέγιστον ἀγαθόν must be 'pleasure', and the general sense will then be that pleasure is enjoyed at the moment when it is brought into being : the two processes are simultaneous. Bignone believes it to be an argument against the Platonic doctrine that pleasure is a γένεσις not an οὐσία, and compares it with K. Δ. iii, where Epicurus denies that pleasure and pain can coexist. But it seems difficult to take the present fragment as a representation of the Epicurean point of view, as it can hardly be reconciled with the importance attached to the pleasures of memory, and it looks more like a statement of the Cyrenaic view of the μονόχρονος ἡδονή. But compare XXVII, which suggests that the reference here may be to the pleasure of philosophic study.

2. ἀπολαύσεως, Usener, seems a certain correction of ἀπολύσεως.

XLIII. An interesting aphorism on avarice, which Greek thought

I think the manuscripts have ἀπόλαυσεως instead of ἀπολύσεως which completely changes the import of the saying and eliminates the need for <τοῦ κακοῦ> "the evil" to be added.

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, ἀπό-λαυσις](#)

This is also directly related to the word used in the letter to Menoikeus in verse 132 when talking about "enjoying."

So, I think Bailey has the upper hand on this one.