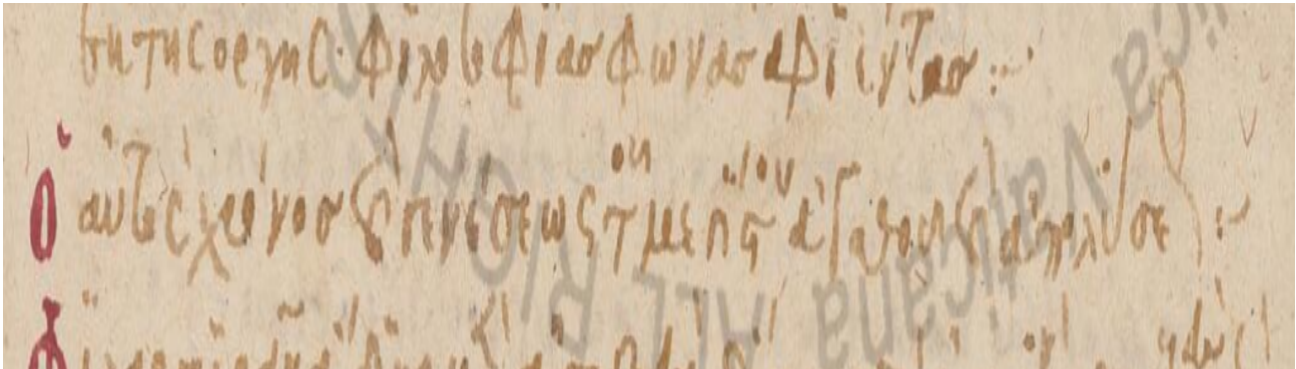


VS42 - Versions of Vatican Saying 42

Post by “Don” of November 8, 2023 at 10:49 PM

I happened to tackle this exact saying here: [RE: If Death Is Nothing To Us, Then Life Is Everything to Us](#)

First, we return to the manuscript:

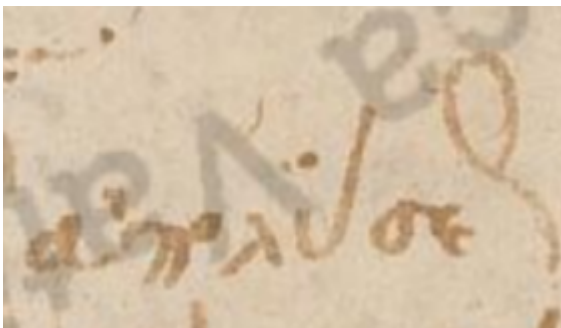


[DigiVatLib](#)

Here's what I see in the manuscript itself:

Ὁ αὐτὸς χρόνος καὶ γενέσεως τοῦ μεγίστου ἀγαθοῦ καὶ ἀπολύσεως.

The pivotal last word is:



From what I see it's ἀ'π^ολύσε(ως).

That last swoopy letter is a ligature substantiated in the literature: [pasted-from-clipboard.png](#)

So, what were the scholars' transcriptions:

Transcription 1: Usener, Bailey, Long and Sedley, Marcovich (UBLS)

Ὁ αὐτὸς χρόνος καὶ γενέσεως τοῦ μεγίστου ἀγαθοῦ καὶ ἀπολαύσεως.

"The greatest blessing is created and enjoyed at the same moment" [Bailey]

Transcription 2: Bignone, Arrighetti and Enrique Álvarez (BAA)

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

"The production of the greatest good and (the) release from evil (happens at) [the same time]."
[Epicurus Wiki]

"The same time corresponds to the birth of the greatest good and the dissolution of evil."
(Enrique Alvarez, translated)

Now, I have issues with each alternative transcription/translation. UBLS "corrects" the text, which I always have issues with. However, ἀπόλαυσις is used in [VS27](#) as the text has noted, so *maybe* they have *some* justification for their correction. BAA adds in the parenthetical <τοῦ κακοῦ> which I would leave out since it is not extant in the manuscript.

If I go with the manuscript, as written, I would offer:

There's a lot of genitive cases in that construction:

γενέσεως τοῦ μεγίστου ἀγαθοῦ

ἀπολύσεως

The καὶ...καὶ... typically can be translated both...and...

So, I would get something like...

(At) the same time, there is both a generation/creation and a releasing/letting go of the greatest good.

The greatest good most likely means pleasure itself.

Now, what the saying mean? That's a very good question. Maybe a commentary on the fleeting nature of feeling pleasure?

In fact, if I would accept the ἀπολαύσεως "correction" by UBLS, I could support their "The greatest blessing is created and enjoyed at the same moment." However, I have that nagging inclination to go with what the text actually has!