

Tetrapharmakos in Philodemus's On Choices and Rejections

Post by “Don” of October 5, 2024 at 8:37 AM

We all have issues with that "easily..." in the translations. So, this morning before work I took a stroll through the LSJ dictionary to look at other words with the eu- prefix. The prefix usually carries the idea of well or good, and not all eu- words are "easily" but first here's the small selection I pulled out:

ευκριτος easy to decide

ευκρυπτος easy to hide

εὐλέπιστος easily peeled or shelled

ευλυρος skilled in the lyre (easy with the lyre?)

ευλυσια suppleness, ease of movement

εὐρητος easy to tell

εὐρίπιστος easily fanned into flame

εὐροπος easy sliding, easy slipping (as in a noose)

εὐρύθμιστος easily shaped

εὐλαβής Pass., easy to get hold of, but also metaph., undertaking prudently, discreet, cautious

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, ε , εὐκρα τό-μελι , εὐλαβ-ής](#)

To me, the common idea is "without undue effort" or going smoothly or being able to accomplish something without any impediments or burdens. Maybe an option is to think about those last two lines as these paths need not be seen as being something to be worried about. We will endure pain. We endure it with the help of friends. We endure it by keeping it in perspective. Don't add undue mental suffering and worry to physical pain. We can find pleasure The Good if we're just open to it.

First thoughts. Responses welcomed.