

Diogenes of Oinoanda Inscription - NEW Complete Translation By MFS - March 2026

Post by "Don" of May 10, 2026 at 8:00 AM

[Quote from Titus](#)

[Quote from Don](#)

I want to note that where Martin Ferguson Smith gives "states" in the translation, the Greek is καταστήμασι and καταστημάτων, that is katastēmasi and katastēmātōn.

Do you have a recommendation how to translate this section smoothly where Ferguson instead gives "states"? (Let us first discuss states...)

"States" isn't a bad choice as it tries to convey a stable condition rather than something in flux, something moving. I will say I don't like "static" as that to me conveys ossification and rigidity. In the past, I've written "It comes from καθίστημι according to LSJ with connotations like restore, return, set in order, etc. So it's not a static state, it's a return to order (ataraxia and aponia) after the 'excitement' of euphrosyne and khara."

But you asked for a translation of the section. To be specific, καταστήμασι is a plural dative and τῶν καταστημάτων is the plural genitive of κατάστημα "state, condition; which is related to [καθίστημι](#). Check out that link for the *numerous* connotations of that word, including *bring down to a place; replace, restore; set in order, array, of soldiers; bring into a certain state; etc.* This is why translation is so tricky. Words have semantic contexts to a speaker of that language that can be completely missed by simple substitutions from language A to B.

But that's never stopped me before 😄, so here's my crack at the first sentence of the Greek (Oh my! I am rusty!)...

ἡμεῖς δὲ ζῆ]τῶμεν ἡδὴ πῶς ὁ βίος ἡμεῖν ἡδὺς γένηται καὶ ἐν τοῖς καταστήμασι καὶ ἐν ταῖς πράξεσιν.

So, let us now consider what stable conditions and what actions produce the sweet, pleasant life for us.