

# Using Google AI to generate translation of ancient Greek words

Post by “Kalosyni” of May 29, 2026 at 9:35 AM

[Don](#) thank you for your tips and advice regarding this, and you gave some helpful links for further research.

## [Quote from Don](#)

This word is connected to ἀταραξία (ataraxia)

When investigating the word **ταράττεσθαι** (tarattesthai), I wanted to get as far away as possible from the word ataraxia. Ataraxia says nothing about what is to be removed or avoided.

Apologies, but found this to be of interest... (and after this I will refrain from further posting using AI translation).

## Quote

Query: how many times is the word ἀταραξία found in the text of the Letter to Menoecus ?

Google AI response:

The word **ἀταραξία** (specifically in its accusative form, ἀταραξίαν) appears **exactly one time** in the original Greek text of Epicurus's *Letter to Menoecus*. [[1](#)]

## Where It Appears

The single occurrence is found in **Section 128** of the text: [[1](#), [2](#)]

## Quote

"...ἐπὶ τὴν τοῦ σώματος ὑγίειαν καὶ τὴν τῆς ψυχῆς **ἀταραξίαν**, ἐπεὶ τοῦτο τοῦ μακαρίως ζῆν ἐστὶ τέλος." [[1](#)]

(...to the health of the body and the **ataraxia** [imperturbability] of the soul, since this is the goal of a blessed life.) [[1](#), [2](#)]

## Why Is It Only Used Once?

It is a common misconception that the word repeats constantly implying that *ataraxia* is the central pillar of Epicurean philosophy. However, Epicurus preferred to describe the *concept* of tranquility using descriptions of what is absent rather than repeating the abstract noun itself: [1, 2, 3, 4]

- **Verbal Descriptions:** He frequently writes about "not suffering pain" or "not being alarmed". For instance, immediately following his single use of *ataraxia*, he uses the phrase "ὅπως μήτε ἀλγῶμεν μήτε ταρβῶμεν" ("**so that we may neither suffer pain nor feel fear**"). [1]
- **Alternative Terms:** He often relies on words like **ἀπορία** (lack of physical pain) or shifts to general discussions of **ἡδονή** (pleasure), defining it purely as the baseline state when all bodily and mental distress is cleared away. [1, 2, 3]

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