

Recent / New Edition of Diogenes Laertius - And Problems With it!

Post by “Joshua” of January 28, 2020 at 7:07 AM

There are other threads in which we've discussed this that Mike might find interesting. I don't have time this morning to go find them, but I can briefly outline my own argument:

1. The confusion between translations arises because of a wholly reasonable confusion among the translators over the Greek system of conjunctions. It's interesting that a language capable of such nuances as Ancient Greek also has such a poverty of conjunctions. We have a thread somewhere where I explain this problem in depth.
2. The weight of the biographical evidence suggests to me that the Bailey translation is **less** accurate. It's true that Metrodorus married and had kids. But did Epicurus? Hermarchus? Polyaeus?
3. Whichever translation one prefers, the qualifying clause in the following sentence renders the two translations nearly equivalent logically. Sometimes it is wise to marry; and sometimes it is not.