

# From Philodemus

Post by "Don" of October 30, 2020 at 3:16 PM

Quote

All of this keeps constantly bouncing me back and forth between the divinity and the "methods of inference" discussion. I don't think we have any choice in much of what we do but to rely on "experts." I certainly don't know a word of Greek myself. But even worse than that is that we have to trust that the texts are not corrupted, and in many cases we have no idea about the chain of transmission.

Cmon, [Cassius](#) , you know some Greek! Don't be so hard on yourself 😊 eudaimonia, ataraxia, ....

But I hear you on the fragmentary nature of our sources. That's why that digitized Diogenes Laertius manuscript at Oxford is so helpful. The Herculaneum papyri especially are problematic, both from a preservation perspective and from a public access perspective. That seems to be some closely guarded scholarship there!

Biblical scholars have similar issues; however, it doesn't seem to slow them down. That's one of the reasons I like Bart Ehrman so much! He doesn't shy away from sharing the difficulties in biblical scholarship, but he's also not shy about sharing conclusions and how he gets there.