

VS 47 - Thoughts and Application

Post by “Kalosyni” of November 24, 2023 at 11:36 AM

VS47. I have anticipated thee, Fortune, and I have closed off every one of your devious entrances. And we will not give ourselves up as captives, to thee or to any other circumstance; but when it is time for us to go, spitting contempt on life and on those who cling to it maundering, we will leave from life singing aloud a glorious triumph-song on how nicely we lived. (Bailey translation).

A synonym of fortune is fate.

Dictionary definition of **fate**:

the will or principle or determining cause by which things in general are believed to come to be as they are or events to happen as they do : [destiny](#) ... fate sometimes deals a straight flush ... he had no idea that he would become the right man in the right place at the right time ...— June Goodfield

2 a : an [inevitable](#) and often adverse outcome, condition, or end Her fate was to remain in exile.

b : [disaster](#) especially : [death](#) The villain met his fate at the hands of the hero.

3 a : final outcome Congress decided the bill's fate by a single vote.

b : the expected result of normal development prospective fate of embryonic cells

c : the [circumstances](#) that befall someone or something did not know the fate of her former classmates

Perhaps we study "cause and effect" at work in various situations, so we would not use the word fortune or fate except for with death (and taxes, lol). Perhaps certain choices do have inevitable results and thus require careful evaluation, but we have free will and so we aren't compelled by anything.

In all other circumstances except for death, we use choice and avoidance to avoid unanticipated results. We can't be certain of all outcomes, but almost like a chess game we keep our options open for responding to what occurs in a given situation. This would require knowledge and input from others who have knowledge.

We now know that healthy eating, exercise, and correct medical interventions have a high likelihood of extending lifespan. Yet we need to accept that the final end cannot be escaped.

Post by “Bryan” of August 24, 2025 at 6:40 PM

That same word for "fortune" (LSJ "the act of a god") also is used for "chance" (LSJ "chance, regarded as an impersonal cause")

εὐτυχεῖν	to be prosperous	EUTYXEIN <i>coming to be well</i>
τυγχάνειν	to happen to be	TYGXANEIN <i>coming to be</i>
τὸ τυχόν τὰ τυχόντα	what happens [to come] to be	TYXON <i>coming to be</i>
ἡ τύχη αἱ τύχαι	chance	TYXH <i>coming to be</i>

I also wanted to point out that the beginning of this saying -- "I have thoroughly anticipated you / Προκατείλημαί σε" -- is built from the same stem as the the word for anticipations.

καταλαμβάνειν	to thoroughly comprehend	ΚΑΤΑΛΑΜΒΑΝΕΙΝ <i>thoroughly grasping</i>
προλαμβάνειν	to anticipate	ΠΡΟΛΑΜΒΑΝΕΙΝ <i>grasping before</i>
ἡ πρόληψις αἱ προλήψεις	[•Λ] anticipation	ΠΡΟΛΗΨΙΣ <i>will grasp before</i>
προκαταλαμβάνειν	to thoroughly anticipate	ΠΡΟΚΑΤΑΛΑΜΒΑΝΕΙΝ <i>thoroughly grasping before</i>
προκατειληφέναι	to have thoroughly anticipated	ΠΡΟΚΑΤΕΙΛΗΦΕΝΑΙ <i>thoroughly grasped before</i>