

"All Good And Evil Consists In Sensation" - Comparison of Translations

Post by "Cassius" of February 17, 2021 at 9:32 AM

Today I was looking at the graphic I did which lists four key aspects of Epicurean thought, and I prepared this to focus on alternate translations of the third of the points:

Epicurus' Statement on Good And Evil From The Letter To Menoeceus:

Bailey: "...For all good and evil consists in sensation, but death is deprivation of sensation."

Yonge: "...Since all good and evil is in sensation, and since death is only the privation of sensation."

Hicks: "...for good and evil imply sentience, and death is the privation of all sentience."

DeWitt: "...Because all good and evil lies in consciousness, and death is the loss of consciousness."

Epicurism.info: "All things good and bad are experienced through sensation, but sensation ceases at death."

Inwood – Gerson: "For all good and bad consists in sense-experience, and death is the privation of sense-experience."



Posted at [FB](#) with this discussion starter:

Here is a significant passage from the Letter to Menoeceus which mentions "good" and "evil." Some might choose to read this as saying simply that we cannot recognize good and evil without our senses, but others will say that Epicurus went further, and taught that independent

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/1885-all-good-and-evil-consists-in-sensation-comparison-of-translations/?postID=11047#post11047>

standards of good and evil do not exist in the universe apart from our sensation of them. Here are six translations of this passage into English to think about and consider his wording: