

Practical exercises: PD2

Post by “Don” of July 5, 2021 at 11:18 AM

Here's my *very* literal translation of section 126 of the Letter to Menoikeus that seems to talk about what you're proposing:

Then the wise one neither begs/craves for living nor fears not living; Neither to set oneself against living, nor to think/suppose/imagine that it is evil to not live. Just as, on the one hand, the most food is not chosen but that which brings the greatest pleasure; as well as, on the other hand, not the longest time but that in which one enjoys the fruits of that which brings the greatest pleasure. Then, the one who exhorts (on the one hand) for the one who is young to live nobly, and, on the other hand, the one who is old to come to an end (die) nobly is a good-hearted simpleton not only because life is to be welcomed, but also because the practice of living well/nobly/beautifully (καλῶς) and (the practice of) dying well/nobly/beautifully (καλῶς) are the same. And also far worse (is) the one who says, on the one hand, it is good/kalōn (καλός) not to be born, or "*failing this, to pass through the gates of Hades as soon as possible.*"

(Last part is a quote from Theognis. [See the full poem in his Wikipedia article.](#))