

Best Recent Version of Diogenes Laertius?


Post by "Cassius" of August 29, 2021 at 8:22 PM

In my case Mensch has not proved to be a new favorite, and here is one reason, comparing PD3:

Epicurus Wiki:

Principal Doctrine 3

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Ὅρος τοῦ μεγέθους τῶν ἡδονῶν ἢ παντὸς τοῦ ἀλγοῦντος ὑπεξαίρεσις· ὅπου δ' ἂν
(The) limit of magnitude of the pleasures (is) the [removal] of everything → painful → Wherever [there is] → →
τὸ ἡδόμενον ἐνῆ, καθ' ὅν ἂν χρόνον ἤ, οὐκ ἔστι τὸ ἀλγοῦν ἢ τὸ λυπούμενον ἢ τὸ
→ pleasure → → → → however long it may be (present) → there is [no] → pain or → sadness or →
συναμφότερον. 
both together

Mensch: and what has no feeling is nothing to us.

III. The limit of pleasure is reached with the removal of all pain. Whenever pleasure is present, and for however long, there is neither pain nor grief nor any combination of the two.

140 IV. Pain does not last long in the flesh; in fact, extreme pain is present for

For me, I usually see the translators include what the Epicurus wiki renders as "magnitude" (I think Bailey uses "quantity.") I happen to think that is a very important word, and I am sorry to see Mensch leave it out. My general impression is that she is being a little too free with the translation and less literal than would be desired given that the material can be pretty complex.