

Best Recent Version of Diogenes Laertius?

Post by "Cassius" of August 29, 2021 at 10:04 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Well, the original does say:

Original text: Καὶ μηδὲ καὶ γαμήσειν καὶ τεκνοποιήσειν τὸν σοφόν....

Here marriage is specifically mentioned: γαμήσειν "to be married" and τεκνοποιήσειν "to bear children" and μηδὲ is negation so..

And neither marry nor bear children..

But the following phrases seem to say that "under certain circumstances" the wise one will turn aside (from this course) and marry.

Yep - some say one way, some say the other way, as below. Seems to me the best course is to be sure to mark the passage as controversial and apparently corrupted

But Cyril Bailey in his 1926 translation says the opposite: "Moreover, the wise man will marry and have children, as Epicurus says in the *Problems* and in the work *On Nature*. But he will marry according to the circumstances of his life."

Epicurus The Extant Remains Bailey Oxford 1926

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Sexual intercourse, they say, has never done a man good, and he is lucky if it has not harmed him.

119 Moreover, the wise man will marry and have children, as Epicurus says in the *Problems* and in the work on *Nature*. But he will marry according to the circumstances of his life.

The more modern Epicurus Reader translation by Inwood and Gerson agrees with Bailey: "And indeed the wise man will marry and father children..." The 1963 text by George Strodach endorses the same view: "In addition, the wise man will marry and beget children.... but he will marry according to his station in life, whatever it may be."