

PD14 - Alternate Translations

Post by "Joshua" of September 4, 2021 at 7:16 PM

Quote

I don't get "retirement **from the world**" at all from ἐκχωρήσεως τῶν πολλῶν at all. It's literally "'withdrawal' from the hoi polloi."

Quote

OK I will say it:. The intersection of the viewpoint of many academics with their preferred translation may well be that the academics consider everyone but themselves to be hoi polloi, and thus they see no difference between "hoi polloi" and "the world."

A slightly more charitable interpretation (since their Greek is better than mine);

Some of the translators may be latching on to a punning connection between πολὺς (many) and πόλις (city-state, or more poetically "the affairs of the world").

But Epicurus is known to have favored plainer speech. Further, he *chose* Athens, the beating heart of Greek culture. Samos off the coast of Asia was at a far greater remove from the Greek world.