

Senigallia Epicurean Festival Coming Up July 21-23

Post by “Don” of June 27, 2022 at 11:07 PM

VS48 Saint-Andre: While you are on the road, try to make the later part better than the earlier part; and be equally happy when you reach the end.

VS48 Epicurus Wiki: (We should) try [to make] the later (stretch) [better] than the earlier (one) while [we are] on (the) road (and) when [we come] to (the) end (we should) enjoy [smooth] (contentment) http://wiki.epicurism.info/Vatican_Saying_48/

πειρᾶσθαι τὴν ὑστέραν τῆς προτέρας κρείττω ποιεῖν, ἕως ἂν ἐν ὁδῷ ὦμεν· ἐπειδὴν δ' ἐπὶ πέρας ἔλθωμεν, ὁμαλῶς εὐφραίνεσθαι.

My attempt at a literal translation:

Attempt to make that which comes afterwards better than that which came earlier while we are on the journey; for whenever we should come to the end, we should be equally making merry.

I like that Epicurus uses the first person plural in the verbs: We. He's including himself in the exhortation to "make each step of the journey better than the one that came before."

Key words from Greek:

- τὴν ὑστέραν - that which comes later or afterwards
- τῆς προτέρας - that which comes earlier or before
- κρείττω - Attic form of κρείσσων (showing Epicurus's Attic upbringing)

This word has two meanings:

comparative degree of κρατύς (kratús): more powerful

comparative degree of ἀγαθός (agathós): better

Ἄγαθός throughout Epicurus's writings, in my opinion, can in many instances be equated with "the good" which is pleasure. So, in one sense, κρείττω ποιεῖν could be translated as "to make better" but also, in Epicurean senses, "to make more pleasurable."

- ἐν ὁδῷ "on a road" the last word here is ὁδός (hodos) which is literally "road" so literally "ἐν ὁδῷ = on a road" but metaphorically it can mean on a journey or even with the dative ὁδῷ more like "in a journey". You're not just "on" a road, you're "within" the journey (of life).

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, ὁδός](#)

- πέρας - a word used several times by Epicurus, including in [PD10](#) for the “limits of desires” τε τὸ πέρας τῶν ἐπιθυμιῶν ; [PD20](#) τὰ πέρατα τῆς ἡδονῆς “the limits of pleasures” ; Letter to Menoikeus 133 τῶν ἀγαθῶν πέρας "the limits/boundaries of good things (i.e., pleasure)"

- εὐφραίνεσθαι (euphrainesthai) “rejoice, be in one's element, be pleased with, delight in, enjoy oneself, exult in, joy in, take pleasure in; make merry, enjoy oneself” I believe this word has to also be connected with euphrosyne (one of the “kinetic pleasures”)

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, ε , εὐφρημ-ητικός , εὐφραίνω](#)

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