

Episode One Hundred Thirty-Three - Letter to Pythocles 07 - Conclusion Of The Letter

Post by "Don" of July 31, 2022 at 8:22 AM

BAILEY: [116] For not even the lowest animal, although 'a small thing gives the greater pleasure,' would be seized by such foolishness, much less one who was possessed of perfect happiness.

HICKS: [116] For such folly as this would not possess the most ordinary being if ever so little enlightened, much less one who enjoys perfect felicity.

INWOOD/GERSON: For such foolishness would not afflict any ordinary animal, even if it were a little more sophisticated, let alone one who possessed complete happiness.

YONGE: Nor can such folly as this occur to any being who is even moderately comfortable, much less to one which is possessed of perfect happiness.

[116] οὐδὲ γὰρ (αν) εἰς τὸ τυχὸν ζῶον, κἄν (εἰ) μικρὸν χαριέστερον εἶη, ἢ τοιαύτη μωρία ἐμπέσοι, μὴ ὅτι εἰς παντελῆ εὐδαιμονίαν κεκτημένον.

So, the major difference in translation here seems Bailey's decision to put in the proverb itself that he says the line κἄν (εἰ) μικρὸν χαριέστερον εἶη "obviously" alludes to: "The smaller the trifle, the greater the joy." While the others don't seem to necessarily accept this as alluding to a "proverb":

- if ever so little enlightened
- even if it were a little more sophisticated
- any being who is even moderately comfortable

χαριέστερον

"in Attic, freq. of persons, in relation to qualities of mind, elegant, accomplished"

[χαρίεις - Wiktionary](#)

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

Yeah, I don't get Bailey's proverb allusion there. It doesn't quite seem to fit to me and the other translations seem more on the mark.

And the "perfect happiness" παντελῆ εὐδαιμονίαν is our old friend eudaimonia modified by that word pantele (from pan-telos) "all-accomplishing, all-complete, absolute, etc."

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, π , παντα^χοῖ , παντελής](#)