

August 17th, 2022 - Wednesday Night Zoom Discussion

Post by "Don" of August 17, 2022 at 10:07 PM

It could be important in that [PD21](#) does say "the limits" of life: τὰ πέρατα τοῦ βίου and not "the limit". There's more than one limit implied by that plural. Does it mean the two extreme limits? The singular form is πέρας:

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

I find it interesting that the LSJ definition includes that πέρας (peras) "generally, limit, either opposite of ἀρχή (arkhē), or including it"

The ἀρχή and τέλος are what

"pleasure is the beginning/foundation/ἀρχή and the end/goal/τέλος of a blessed life τοῦ μακαρίως ζῆν (same blessed as in PD1)."

We also find πέρας in:

48. 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.

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

[PD10](#)

Εἰ τὰ ποιητικὰ [τῶν περὶ τοὺς ἀσώτους ἡδονῶν] ἔλυε τοὺς φόβους τῆς διανοίας τοῦς [τε περὶ μετεώρων καὶ θανάτου καὶ ἀλγηδόνων], ἔτι τε τὸ πέρασ τῶν ἐπιθυμιῶν ἐδίδασκεν, οὐκ ἂν ποτε εἴχομεν ὃ τι μεμψάμεθα αὐτοῖς, πανταχόθεν ἐκπληρουμένοις τῶν ἡδονῶν καὶ οὐδαμόθεν οὔτε τὸ ἀλγοῦν οὔτε τὸ λυπούμενον ἔχουσιν, ὃ περ ἔστι τὸ κακόν.

Saint-Andre ,(with revision): If the things that produced the delights of those who are decadent washed away the mind's fears about astronomical phenomena and death and suffering, and furthermore if they taught us ~~the limits of our pains and desires~~ (literal: the limit of desires (epithymiōn)), then we would have no complaints against them, since they would be filled with every joy and would contain not a single pain or distress (and that's what is bad).

πέρας also shows up in [PD18](#) "the limit of pleasure"; in the variant ἀπειρος "unlimited, infinite" in [PD19](#) as well as the limits measures by reason: "Infinite time and finite time contain the same amount of joy, if its limits are measured out through reasoning."