

Festivals or Contemplation??

Post by "Don" of January 27, 2023 at 6:11 PM

[Quote from Todd](#)

Have you checked if any of the "festival" translators offer a justification for their choice?

Unfortunately, I haven't seen any citations or justifications for either "festival" or "contemplation." However, Bailey does give some background for each of the translation options in his Extant Remains:

6. ἐν ταῖς θηρύσιαις, 'at public festivals', and especially religious ceremonies. That this is the meaning Bignone has shown by reference

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to Plut. *comit. Epic. Best.* 13. 1095 C, where it is said that the sage will take special pleasure in recitations and the Dionysiac festivals; we may compare what is said of Epicurus' own 'devotion to the gods' in § 10. Kochalky perversely translates, 'he will specially have friends in his philosophical speculations'.

We also refer to LSJ for interesting citations of different uses:

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

I find No. 4 especially intriguing:

4. *Rhet., explanatory preface to a μελέτη, Chor. in Hermes 17.208, etc.: so in Philos., continuous exposition, Olym.in Mete.18.30, al.*

in light of the use of that word in the Letter to Menoikeus in particular:

Meditate day and night then on this and similar things by yourself as well as together with those like yourself.

Ταῦτα οὖν καὶ τὰ τούτοις συγγενῆ μελέτα πρὸς σεαυτὸν ἡμέρας καὶ νυκτὸς πρὸς <τε> τὸν ὅμοιον σεαυτῷ