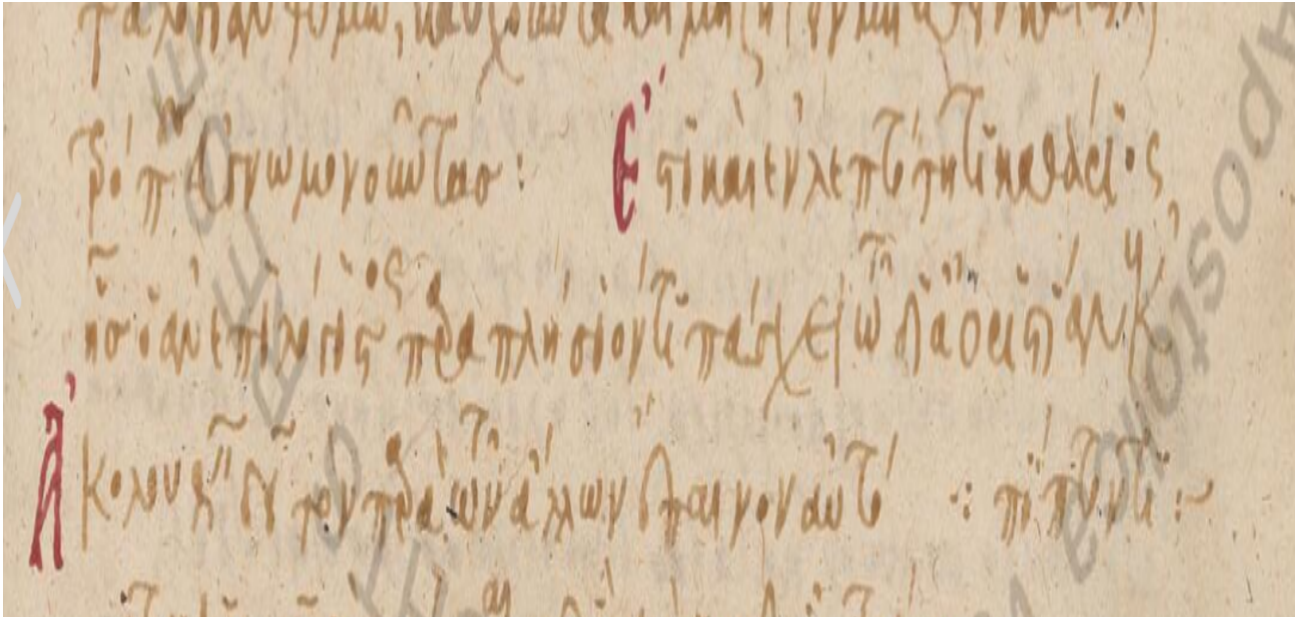


# VS63 - "Frugality Too Has A Limit..."

Post by "Don" of January 28, 2023 at 11:32 PM



Here is Vatican Saying 63 as contained in the early 14th century manuscript, Vat.gr.1950.pt.2, folio 404r.

[VS63](#) starts at the red epsilon (Εστι...) and ends at the end of the line before red alpha (Ακολουθεῖν) that starts VS64. This is \*the\* source of our discussion.

The first controversy seems to have to do with the disagreement between Usener/Bailey/Bignone and von der Muehli.

Bailey (using Usener) transcribes the manuscript as:

3410-pasted-from-clipboard-png

von der Muehli transcribes it as ([click here to link to the book on Hathitrust](#) )

63 Ἔστι καὶ ἐν λεπτότητι καθαριότης, ἧς ὁ ἀνεπιλόγιστος 10  
παραπλήσιόν τι πάσχει τῷ δι' ἀοριστίαν ἐκπίπτοντι.

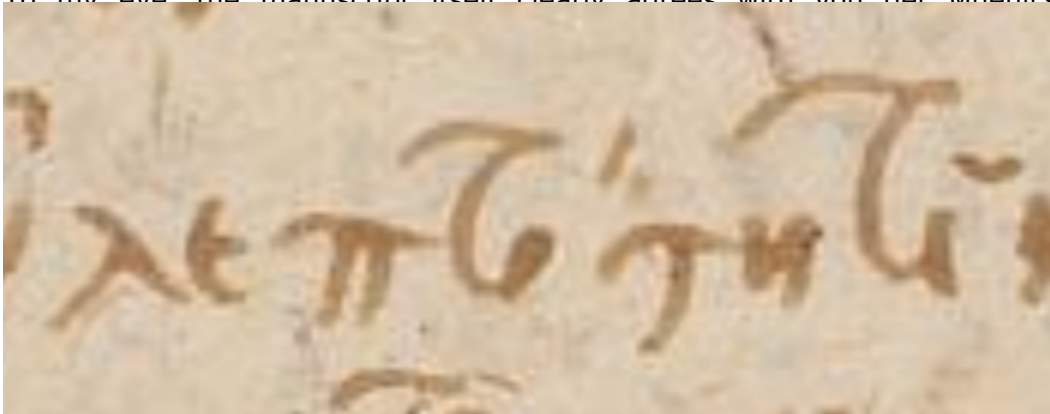
with the following footnote (following the 10):

*LXI (1906) 421 θυμῷ κατέχοντα Weil θυμῷ καταχρίον Go.  
9 σύγνωμονοῦντα Croen.: σύγνωμονοῦντας Vat. 10 λιότητι Us.  
καθάριος Vat., correxi 16 συμπαθῶ μὲν Vat. 18 <Θ> ἐλεύθε-  
ρος Blos Croen cf fr 196 | καθάρσθαι κέρματα Vat corr*

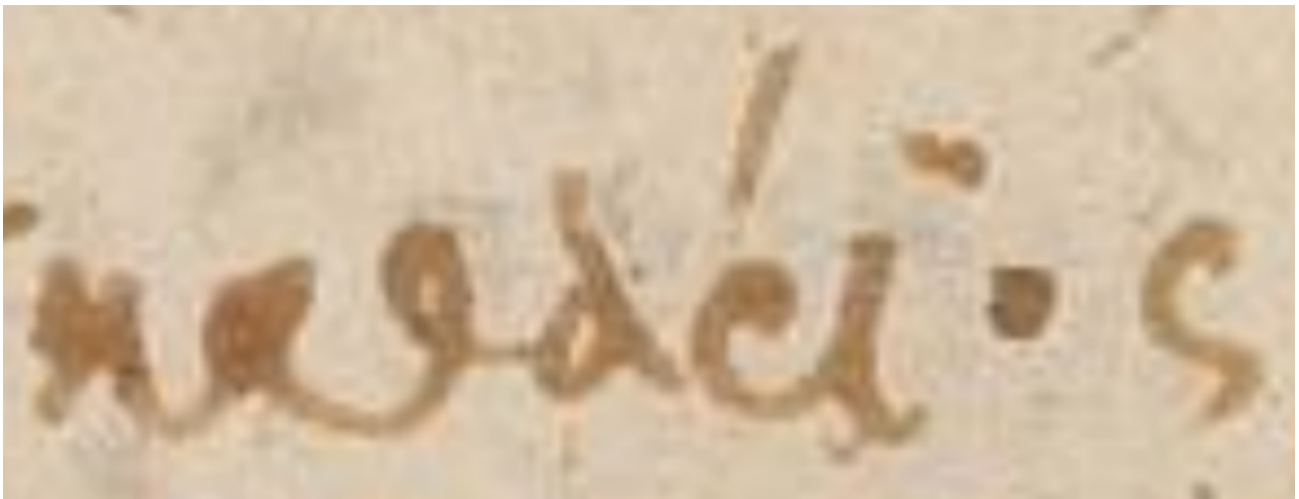
noting that Usener "corrects" the text of the manuscript to **λιτοτητι καθαριος**.

Von der Muehli, on the other hand, transcribes the manuscript as **λεπτοτητι καθαριοτης**.

To my eye, the manuscript itself clearly agrees with von der Muehli's transcription of



Usener appears to be "outhinking" the scribe who copied the manuscript on that specific word; however, the second word appears to agree with Usener/Bailey because the ending is clearly ...ριος but the previous letter looks like an theta alpha (...θα...) so it looks like ...θαριος. But what are those first two letter? That's the rub.



It might be handy to have a chart of ancient Greek miniscule. [Click here to go with the handy chart at Wikipedia.](#)

and here is [a link to a collection of ancient Greek ligatures.](#)

Here is where the scholarship above my pay grade comes in!! The reason Usener/Bailey and von der Muehli can disagree on what the manuscript is \*supposed\* say is that they're trying read into the possible transcription mistakes that the scribe could have done in copying the text from a source to vat.gr.1950.

Let's at least examine those two words that are in disagreement: λιτοτητι and λεπτοτητι.

λιτοτητι the dative of λιτότης "plainness, simplicity"

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

Note that the LSJ definition even gives "for λεπτότης in Epicur.Sent.Vat.63." so it appears they accept that λιτότης is supposed to be λεπτότης in [VS63](#). So...

λεπτότης "thinness: fineness, delicacy, leanness"

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon, λᾶας , λεπιδόμαι , λεπτότης](#)

So, Saint-Andre follows von der Muehli \*and\*, more importantly to me, the actual text of the source manuscript.

ἔστι καὶ ἐν λεπτότητι καθαριότης, ἧς ὁ ἀνεπιλόγιστος παραπλήσιόν τι πάσχει τῷ δι' ἀοριστίαν ἐκπίπτοντι.

The issue for me lies in the fact that if we follow the manuscript on λεπτότητι, why aren't we following the manuscript text on the second word ending with ...θαριος?

More to come (no doubt), but I want to save here before I lose all this!