

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

Post by "Don" of February 2, 2023 at 8:09 AM

"Elegance" is probably not the best translation of καθαριος so I should stop using it. Here is the LSJ entry:

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, κα^θάρ-ειος](#)

Here's Saint-Andres note to his translation:

Quote

Translating this phrase as "an elegance in simplicity" ties it to other statements Epicurus makes about both living beautifully (e.g., Vatican Saying #17) and living simply or naturally (e.g., Vatican Saying #21).

For reference, here are those two. They don't use καθαριος but hint at that sentiment:

VS17. It is not the young man who is most happy, but the old man who has lived beautifully; for despite being at his very peak the young man stumbles around as if he were of many minds, whereas the old man has settled into old age as if in a harbor, secure in his gratitude for the good things he was once unsure of.

VS21. Nature must be persuaded, not forced. And we will persuade nature by fulfilling the necessary desires, and the natural desires too if they cause no harm, but sharply rejecting the harmful desires.

PS: I'd encourage anyone who's interested to take a look at the καθαριος definition above and the two below and post how they would translate this opening phrase:

"There is (καθαριος) even in (choose 1: A. λεπτότης or B. λιτοτης)..."

A. λεπτότης

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, λ , λεπτό-ρρυ^τος , λεπτότης](#)

B. λιτοτης

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

I'd be particularly interested if [Joshua](#) or some of our other poets wanted to take a stab at it.