

What Are The Possible Reasons (And Of These, The Most Likely) Why The List of 40 Principal Doctrines Does Not Feature A Statement Explicitly Stating Pleasure To Be The Goal of Life?

Post by "Don" of February 14, 2023 at 6:55 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Also as to the possibility that PDO1 is intended to refer to more than just the [Epicurean gods](#) even though the term "immortal" is used, there is this:

VS78. The noble soul occupies itself with wisdom and friendship; of these, the one is a mortal good, the other immortal.

Going back to this ...

ὁ γενναῖος περὶ σοφίαν καὶ φιλίαν μάλιστα γίγνεται, ὧν τὸ μὲν ἐστὶ θνητὸν ἀγαθόν, τὸ δὲ ἀθάνατον.

There are two different words used that are translated "immortal" in PD1 and VS78.

PD1 uses ἀφθαρτος *aphthartos* which is more like uncorrupted, undecaying, which can be translated as immortal or eternal but places more emphasis on an unchanging nature.

VS78 uses θνητός *thnētos* for the "mortal" and ἀθάνατος *athanatos* "not mortal; not dying" but the former can mean literally "(of things) befitting mortals." ἀθάνατον is "immortal" but better thought of as undying, everlasting, perpetual. So, for me, the emphasis is on the persistence in time in VS78. The wisdom we acquire in our lives dies with us. But friendship lasts in our memories even after the friend dies, as does the memory of ourselves in our friends.