

VS52 - Happiness or Blessedness?

Post by "Don" of May 6, 2023 at 11:47 AM

Here's a pertinent excerpt from my letter to Menoikeus translation:

Quote

Another pivotal word here is μακαρίως which appears to have no certain etymology but seems possibly to be derived from the idea of being wealthy in a literal and/or figurative sense. The usual translation is something like "blessed, fortunate, wealthy, 'well-off'". That being said, "happy" or as Saint-Andre says "completely happy" doesn't, in my view, provide the overall sense of satisfaction or completeness conveyed by a word like μακαρίως. Keep in mind that this is a form of the exact word used to describe the "blessed" beings talked about in Principal Doctrine 1: Τὸ μακάριον καὶ ἄφθαρτον οὔτε αὐτὸ πράγματα ἔχει οὔτε ἄλλω παρέχει· ὥστε οὔτε ὀργαῖς οὔτε χάρισι συνέχεται· ἐν ἀσθενεῖ γὰρ πᾶν τὸ τοιοῦτον.

"That which is blessed/completely happy/blissful and imperishable/indestructible has no troubles itself nor causes troubles for others; as a consequence, it is affected by neither anger nor gratitude; because all this would be an indication of weakness/sickness/lack of strength."

That Doctrine's μακάριον is rarely translated as simply "happy" but rather "blissful" and other superlatives like that.^{22,23,24}

22

<https://books.google.com/books?id=sPCww...ymology&f=false>

23

<http://www.crossmarks.com/brian/allsaintb.htm>

24

<https://www.studylight.org/language-studi.../index.cgi?a=38>

Display More