

What "Live Unknown" means to me (Lathe Biosas)

Post by "Don" of May 13, 2023 at 9:58 PM

I find it interesting that the phrase is often translated as "Live unknown" as if the imperative verb is "Live!". But the verb here is λάθε:

[Quote from Quora](#)

Linguistically, the phrase λάθε βιωσας uses the verb λανθανω, which I think is unique to Ancient Greek: it roughly means 'to escape the notice of...' takes the accusative of the person whose attention you avoid and the participle of the action you do without the person noticing. Complicated! The phrase literally means "Escape the notice [of everyone?] having lived your life".

λάθε= inflection of λανθάνω (lanthánō):

second-person singular aorist active imperative

It's also a singular imperative. It's addressed to one person.

A. (active) to escape notice

1. (transitive) escape a person's notice

2. (transitive) to do [+participle or rarely infinitive = something] without being noticed
[+accusative = by someone]

So, using 2 it literally does go something like the Quora answer gives.

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

In light of all that, is it a commentary having something to do about being concerned with what happens *after* one's death?

[Quote from Hellenistic Greek](#)

the aorist infinitive does not express progressive aspect. It presents the action expressed by the verb as a complete unit with a beginning and end.