

VS78 - Alternative Translation

Post by “Onenski” of July 4, 2023 at 12:29 AM

Hi everybody,

A traditional translation of VS 78 is: "The noble man is chiefly concerned with wisdom and friendship; of these, the former is a mortal good, the latter an immortal one." [Ὁ γενναῖος περὶ σοφίαν καὶ φιλίαν μάλιστα γίγνεται, ὧν τὸ μὲν ἐστὶ **θνητὸν** ἀγαθόν, τὸ δὲ ἀθάνατον.]

I just read a different translation (I found it in a PhD dissertation in Spanish). Probably, [Don](#) can say something about it. The author affirms that the original form of the Saying is:

Ὁ γενναῖος περὶ σοφίαν καὶ φιλίαν μάλιστα γίγνεται, ὧν τὸ μὲν ἐστὶ **νοητὸν** ἀγαθόν, τὸ δὲ ἀθάνατον.

But, he says, there was a correction in Hartel manuscript which changed νοητὸν (intellectual) for θνητὸν (immortal) (there's a footnote which refers to "Wotke y Usener 1888: 197"). Apparently, Long & Sedley (and Bailey) took that correction as well as most of editors.

In brief, the translation would be: "The noble soul occuppies itself with wisdom and friendship; of these the one [wisdom] is **an intellectual** good, the other [friendship] immortal".

I think this can enrich our understanding of this VS, or at least add something to discussion.