

PD02 - Best Translation To Feature At EpicureanFriends?

Post by "Eikadistes" of July 17, 2023 at 2:41 PM

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ΤΟ ΔΙΑΛΥΘΕΝ that which is disintegrated, unwound, and scattered (Note: the definite article)

ΤΟ ΑΝΑΙΣΘΗΤΟΥΝ that which lacks perception

I want to point out that I prefer "that" here rather than "one who" or any similar words. Once one dies, the body is an "it" since it is officially an inanimate object.

I also think "that" is to be preferred because I am reading the disintegrated body as having been a soul, but not necessarily the human form, which is still intact many weeks after the disintegration of the fragile, material soul.

I picture an atomic body that has been reduced to its constituent atoms, so, for me, words like "disintegrate" or "scattered" are robust descriptions of a dying soul that disperses from the body like a fart dissipating into the air, but when I imagine an entire human form, one of the first things that come to mind is a skeleton that can be perfectly preserved in a geometrically complete form for hundreds of millions of years, the same being true of teeth, and, if anthropologists and archaeologists get lucky, very, very tight, very dry skin. We also observe cultures (I believe I am thinking of a group in Indonesia) who mummify their relatives and unearth them for yearly celebrations. "*Disintegrating*" or "*Scattering*" are definitely correct translations (I like *disintegrate*, myself), particularly because of their implication of a breakdown of a compound into uncuttables, but, in my mind, at least, a sizable % of the mass of a body not only does *not* disintegrate, but it maintains its recognizable form for, *potentially*, hundreds of millions of years.

Additionally, since the *death* that Epicurus observes is a description of an animal that perishes (including non-human animal)s, and since we rarely use the word "who" when identifying individual, non-human animals, employing "that" provides a biological consistency (especially if there are struggling humanoids on other planets).