

PD05 - Best Translation of PD05 To Feature At EpicureanFriends.com

Post by “Don” of July 31, 2023 at 11:03 PM

Thanks, Nate, for the insight into your creative process.

[Quote from Nate](#)

You'e got it. Among others, this doctrine is BEGGING for consonance.

I agree, from a *purely poetic perspective* (to carry on the consonance :-)). Just to be clear to everyone, there is no alliteration in the original and the -os ending of kalos, dikaios, phronimos is due to Greek case endings. That's not to say Epicurus (or the Epicurean author) didn't like the way they sounded together, but it would have happened anyway with those endings.

You're almost required to use "pleasurably" as well and stick to p-consonance. I've seen enjoyably or happily or that sort of this, but with hedeos, bringing out the "pleasurably" seems paramount.

[Quote from Nate](#)

I take φρονιμῶς as "practically", though "prudently" would be equally if not more appropriate

Prudently has the problem of being perceived as Victorian, although I like it better from a semantic perspective. "Practically" works from "practical wisdom."

[Quote from Nate](#)

I sort of dislike the idea of καλῶς because I just haven't been able to digest the idea well. What is "beautiful" that is not also "prudent"? What is "beautiful" which is not also "just"? Surely we are not talking about "physical arousal at the human form", but rather some sort of "appropriate manner in which a lifestyle is lived", so "properly" is what I take. Still, I don't quite like "properly" because it's sounds sort of ... eh ... it's the best word that I've found to translate καλῶς. Even given my self-imposed "P"-consonance, I think "properly" (so far) best expresses the idea of "living excellently".

Kalos is SUCH a catch-all term for all things proper, noble, excellent. Strong's defines the usage as "beautiful, as an outward sign of the inward good, noble, honorable character; good, worthy, honorable, noble, and seen to be so." If "principled" had an adverbial form, that might work. So, yeah, "properly" is probably the proper possibility.

[Quote from Nate](#)

I want to break "justice" as δικαίως down into a familiar idea. Some read "justice" and think "The Second Coming" and "Sinners in Hell". Some read "justice" as "The Thin Blue Line". Neither is appropriate. So, I want to employ a more familiar word that expresses Epicurean Justice, which, fundamentally, is a peaceful agreement between people.

This is the one I'm having problems processing. To me, Epicurean justice has to do with fairness, not harming others, but making sure to take measures where others don't willfully harm you. We treat others properly.. but that's already being used. Politely doesn't seem strong enough. Maybe peaceably instead of peacefully? I'm going to have to ponder this one before I'm all in.

All that being said, I think you have a good dynamic translation... and I fully understand your

[Quote from Nate](#)

if someone wants a 1:1 transliteration ... just learn ancient Greek. καλως is only truly accurate as καλως.

