

# Practical Tips On Cultivation of Friendship in the Modern World

Post by “Don” of August 3, 2023 at 7:20 AM

[Quote from Randall Moose](#)

One of my favorite Epicurean quotes is Vatican Saying 52, "Friendship dances around the world, bidding us all to awaken to the recognition of happiness."

That's one of my favorites, too, and knowing a little about the ancient Greek original text makes it even better in my opinion. 😊

ἡ φιλία περιχορεύει τὴν οἰκουμένην κηρύττουσα δὴ πᾶσιν ἡμῖν ἐγείρεσθαι ἐπὶ τὸν μακαρισμόν.

(hē philia perikhoreuei tēn oikoumenēn kēruttousa dē pasin hēmin egeiresthai epi ton makarismōn.)

ἡ φιλία is friendship, love, affection for others

περιχορεύει, usually just translated as "dances around" is deeper than just that. Peri- is the "around" part, seen in English in perimeter "measure around." But the -χορεύει part means "to be the member of a chorus, taking part in the choral dance of ancient Greek drama." So the word itself implies taking part in a group dance, dancing around joyfully with others.

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

οἰκουμένην is the whole inhabited world and is related to the word meaning house (oikos).

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

κηρύττουσα means

- To be a herald or auctioneer
- To make a proclamation as herald
- (transitive) To summon by herald
- (transitive) To proclaim, announce
- (transitive) To command someone publicly to do something (with infinitive or dative of thing)
- It's the same word used in the New Testament to mean "To preach the gospel"

μακαρισμόν is usually translated elsewhere as blessedness, supreme happiness, and is actually related directly to the word used to describe the gods in PD1