

Epicurean gods and Aristotelian contemplation

Post by “Don” of September 3, 2023 at 9:47 AM

LOL. You do fly that flag often, and usually for good reason.

It sounds like you're asking for two things. One an easy way to copy paste Greek into scanned docs with bad OCR. The other a glossary.

I have no problem with the first, however that comes about.

The latter is the one I have problems with. Lists like that can provide a false sense of security. Even when a Greek word has an "obvious" English translation, nuance is still at play. Especially when it comes to philosophical discourse. It may not be a big deal to determine the exact shade of green meant by πράσινος unless you're an art historian or museum restorer, but even there, context is everything. The idea that there's an easy one to one correspondence between languages is specious.

Now, of course, we can read translations! We'd be the poorer for it. Of course, people speaking different languages can communicate.

But simply accepting that ηδονή means voluptas means pleasure gives one an assurance that one understands the meaning of a text when there's more going on than a surface meaning.

PS. I'd offer a permutation on your adage:

"Don't let the 'good enough' masquerade as the good."

Acceptance of good enough equivalencies are sometimes indeed good enough. Other times, good enough equivalencies paper over real complexities in meaning.