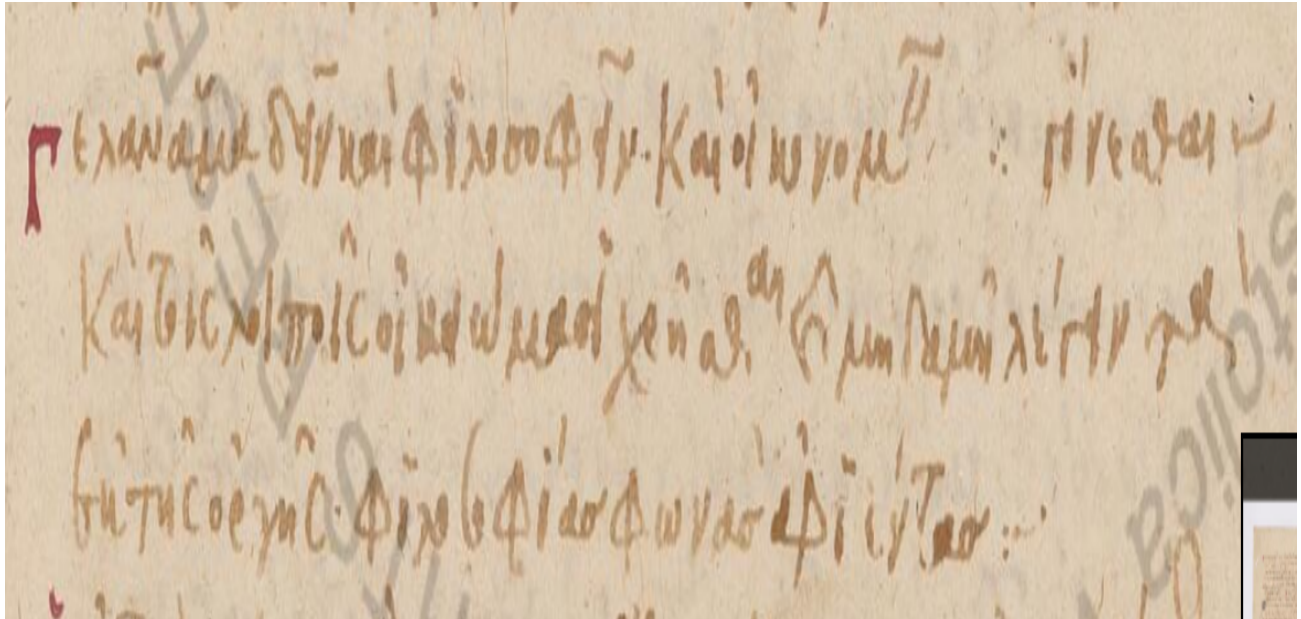


VS41 - Thoughts on and translations of VS41

Post by "Don" of November 2, 2023 at 12:24 AM

I am *always* open for digging into these translation questions! Thanks for the opportunity.

First, we return to the manuscript:



[DigiVatLib](#)

And for ease of comparison (differences in transcription underlined):

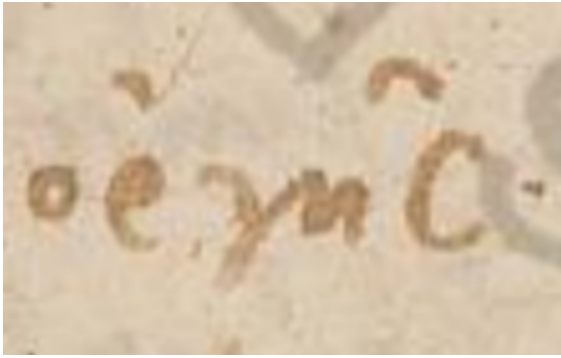
Bailey:

Γελαῖν ἄμα δεῖ καὶ φιλοσοφεῖν καὶ οἰκονομεῖν καὶ τοῖς λοιποῖς οἰκειώμασι χρῆσθαι καὶ μηδαμῆ λήγειν τὰς ἐκ τῆς ὀρθῆς φιλοσοφίας φωνὰς ἀφιέντας.

Alberto Enrique Álvarez:

Γελαῖν ἄμα δεῖν καὶ φιλοσοφεῖν καὶ οἰκονομεῖν καὶ τοῖς λοιποῖς οἰκειώμασι χρῆσθαι καὶ μηδαμῆ λέγειν τὰς ἐκ τῆς ὀργῆς φιλοσοφίας φωνὰς ἀφιέντας.

You're right! One letter and one word difference. Now, what word is in the manuscript??



Well! Would you look at that! ... ὀργῆς !!! That third letter is *clearly* a gamma γ and not a theta θ, but Bailey et al., of course, knew what was in the scribe's mind when he wrote that. Nope! Unless there is a question of what letter is in a manuscript, I am not amenable to the idea of "correcting" texts if a plausible translation can be made from **what is actually written**!

So, I fully agree with Álvarez's transcription. This just continues to confirm to me that we absolutely HAVE TO go back to the manuscripts when they are available. And I like Álvarez's point about the juxtaposition of laughter and anger. Bailey et al. change the word to ορθῆς (orthes) "right, correct" (as in ortho-dox) to make it easier on themselves, I think. I'm a little unsure about the use of "maxims" in Álvarez's translation, so I'd like to break the manuscript line apart and dig into the grammar briefly...

...καὶ μηδαμῆ λέγειν "and never, ever (strong negation) to say...

...τὰς .. φιλοσοφίας φωνὰς ἀφιέντας. "the letting loose philosophical sounds"

ἐκ τῆς ὀργῆς "from (or "done by" or "out of") anger"

The "maxim" of Alvarez comes from φωνας:

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

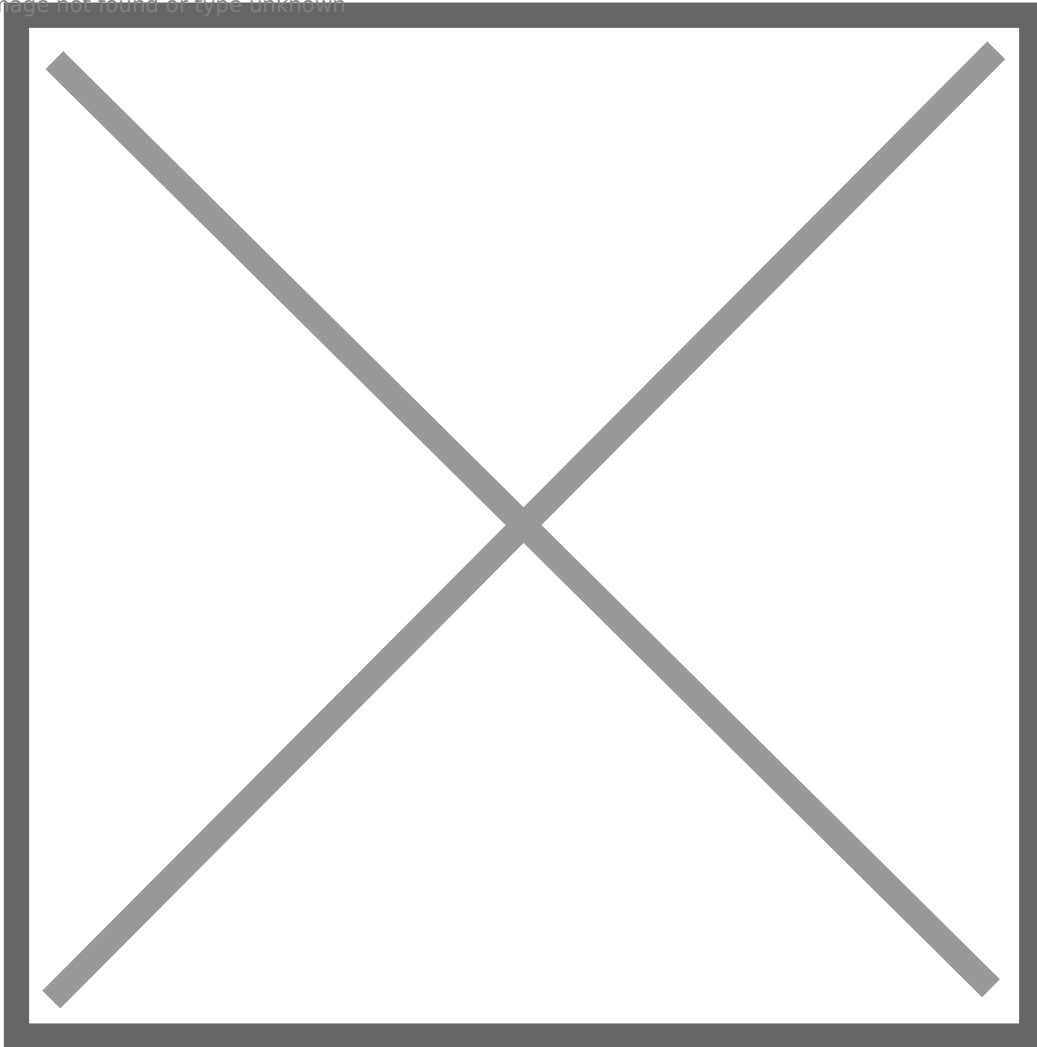
LSJ has:

III. phrase, saying, "τὴν Σιμωνίδου φ." **Id.Prt. 341b**; "ἡ τοῦ Σωκράτους φ." *Plu.2.106b*, cf. *330f*, etc.; of formulae, "στοιχειώματα καὶ φ." *Epicur.Ep.1p.4U.*, cf. *Sent.Vat.41* (= *Metrod. Fr.59*); "αἱ σκεπτικαὶ φ." *S.E.P.1.14*, cf. **Jul.Or.5.162b**, etc.

but I think that citation of *Sent. Vat. 41* could be predicated on the *orthes* of Bailey et al. But really all the word can mean is voice, cry, sound, etc. It's where we get our English "phone, phono-."

This text translates ἀφιέντας as "overlook":

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[XX. For Polystratus](#)

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>be saved by this plea, and might obtain our due reward at your hands. And for the sake of other people also you ought to...
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So, I can get the clunky literalish translation:

"One must laugh and seek wisdom and tend to one's home life and use one's other goods; and never, ever let loose speaking philosophical sayings out of anger."

... or something with that idea.