

VS14 - My Take on VS14

Post by "Don" of May 26, 2024 at 11:21 PM

[Quote from Bryan](#)

"We have been born once - twice it is not possible to be born: it is necessary to no longer exist for eternity. But you, not being master of tomorrow, you delay joy! Life is lost by this delay - and each of us, while occupied, dies."

Γεγόναμεν ἅπαξ - δις δὲ οὐκ ἔστι γενέσθαι· δεῖ δὲ τὸν αἰῶνα μηκέτι εἶναι· σὺ δὲ, οὐκ ὦν τῆς αὔριον κύριος, ἀναβάλλη τὸ χαῖρον! ὁ δὲ βίος μελλησμῶ παραπόλλυται - καὶ εἷς ἕκαστος ἡμῶν, ἀσχολούμενος, ἀποθνήσκει.

Hey, [Bryan](#) . I was looking over this thread and realized I had previously posted this:

Post

[RE: VS14 - Thoughts on VS14 and source in Vatican manuscript](#)

The Vat.gr.1950 manuscript text reads:

epicureanfriends.com/wcf/attachment/3901/

https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Vat.gr.1950.pt.2/0255

402r

The typical transcription reads:

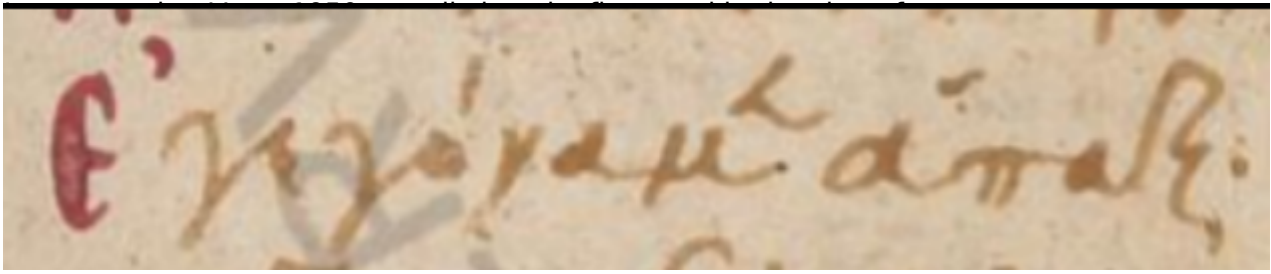
γεγόναμεν ἅπαξ, δις δὲ οὐκ ἔστι γενέσθαι· δεῖ δὲ τὸν αἰῶνα μηκέτι εἶναι· σὺ δὲ οὐκ ὦν τῆς αὔριον κύριος ἀναβάλλη τὸ χαῖρον· ὁ δὲ βίος μελλησμῶ παραπόλλυται καὶ εἷς ἕκαστος ἡμῶν ἀσχολούμενος ἀποθνήσκει.

However, look at the VERY beginning of the saying. There is a large red capital epsilon: **Ε'** γεγόναμεν ἀμαξ... that...



Don

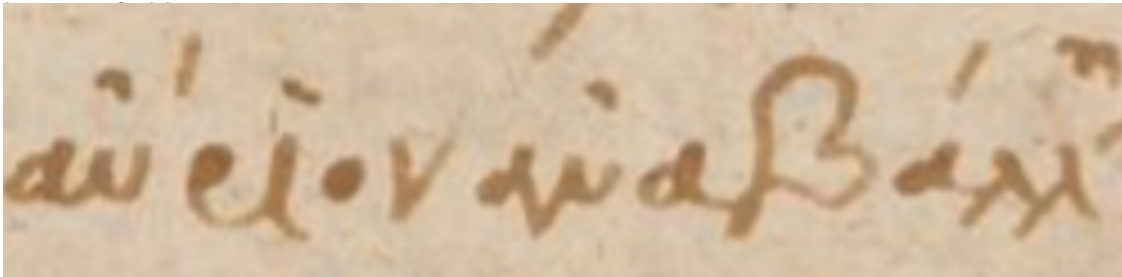
July 7, 2023 at 10:46 PM



Ἐγεγόναμεν ἅπαξ...

which makes sense, as I understand, since the pluperfect is "more complete" than complete. It seems to me that it also hammers home that unique occurrence when we are born. "We had been born once." It's clumsy in English, but I can understand why it might be there.

Also, I'm not seeing any κυριος in "ὦν τῆς αὔριον κύριος". It looks to me like αὐριον goes right



So, I'm getting something closer to...

Ἐγεγόναμεν ἅπαξ - δις δὲ οὐκ ἔστι γενέσθαι - δεῖ δὲ τὸν αἰῶνα μηκέτι εἶναι - σὺ δὲ οὐκ ὦν - τῆς αὔριον ἀναβάλλη τὸ χαῖρον - ὁ δὲ βίος μελλησμῶ παραπόλλυται - καὶ εἷς ἕκαστος ἡμῶν ἀσχολούμενος ἀποθνήσκει.

The traditional transcription runs (including some different punctuation/breaks in the lines)...

Γεγόναμεν ἅπαξ - δις δὲ οὐκ ἔστι γενέσθαι: δεῖ δὲ τὸν αἰῶνα μηκέτι εἶναι. σὺ δὲ, οὐκ ὦν τῆς αὔριον κύριος, ἀναβάλλη τὸ χαῖρον! ὁ δὲ βίος μελλησμῶ παραπόλλυται - καὶ εἷς ἕκαστος ἡμῶν, ἀσχολούμενος, ἀποθνήσκει.

Without kyrios, that middle line seems to me to be something more akin to σὺ δὲ οὐκ ὦν τῆς αὔριον ἀναβάλλη τὸ χαῖρον "Therefore, you are not the one who delays joy until tomorrow"???