

Episode 237 - Cicero's OTNOTG - 12 - Isonomia And The Implications of Infinity

Post by "Bryan" of July 17, 2024 at 1:12 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

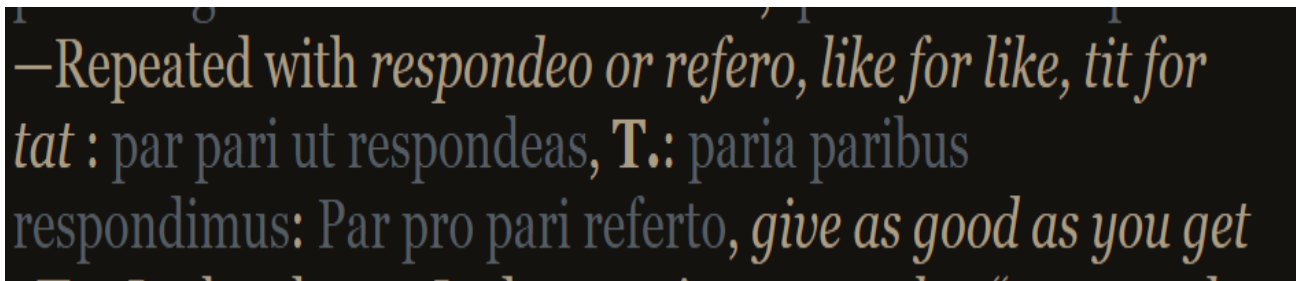
"answering" may be a better rendering of "respondeant" than Rackham's "exact match or counterpart."

For *rēspōndēō*, we have:

- To promise a thing in return for something else; to offer or present in return.
- To answer, reply, respond (to a question or any statement, friendly or hostile).
- To give an opinion, advice, decision, response (lawyers, priests, oracles).
- To appear before a tribunal, to answer an accusation, meet a charge.
- To answer to; to meet, agree, accord, or correspond with a thing.
- To return, make a return, yield.

"Exact match or counterpart" does seem interpretive. "*Omnia omnibus paribus paria respondeant*" is almost poetic, we have literally "all things correspond as equals to all equal things."

This would not have been so wordy to the Roman ear, as the double use of *paria/par* is common for *rēspōndēō*:



—Repeated with *respondeo* or *refero*, like for like, tit for tat: *par pari ut respondeas*, T.: *paria paribus respondimus*: *Par pro pari referto*, give as good as you get

"give as good as you get"

"return like for like"

4. Par pari respondere, or par pro pari referre, to return like for like, of a repartee: “par pari respondet,” Plaut. Truc. 5, 47; id. Merc. 3, 4, 44; id. Pers. 2, 2, 11; cf.: “paria paribus respondimus,” Cic. Att. 6, 1, 23: “ut sit unde par pari respondeatur,” id. ib. 16, 7, 6: “par pro pari referto, quod eam mordeat,” Ter. Eun. 3, 1, 55 Fleck., Umpfenb., cited ap. Cic. Fam. 1, 9, 19 (Bentl. ex conject. par, pari; cf. Krebs, Antibarb. p. 281, ed. 5).—

Omnia omnibus paribus paria respondeant = Everything alike corresponds to everything alike. Hard to argue against, but not packed with meaning. If tautology is ever appropriate, I suppose it would be for isonomía.