

Choice & Avoidance: towards a better translation for avoidance

Post by “Don” of August 17, 2024 at 7:23 AM

I'll grant you that you have to find English translations that speak to you for the Greek words Epicurus used (or the Latin ones Lucretius used). But I also maintain translation can obfuscate the original meaning, so we all need to be careful.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

"fleeing" is not a normally something an Epicurus would do) mainly in the context of coming up with words that are generally useful.

Well, the words he used are φυγή (noun) and φεύγω (verb). Here are the dictionary entries for each, so I encourage everyone to dig into the connotations of each and decide for themselves. Maybe "flee" isn't the best, but I need something with more agency than "avoid":

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

Woodhouse, S. C. (1910) English-Greek Dictionary: A Vocabulary of the Attic Language[1], London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Limited.

avoidance
banishment
disappearance
escape
exile
flight
outlawry
proscription
refusal
rejection
repudiation
stampede
transportation

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

Antonyms

(antonym(s) of “to flee, be accused”): διώκω (diōkō, “to pursue, accuse”)

Related to Latin fugio:

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3993-choice-avoidance-towards-a-better-translation-for-avoidance/?postID=31838#post31838>

[fugio - Wiktionary, the free dictionary](#)