

Choice & Avoidance: towards a better translation for avoidance

Post by “Don” of August 18, 2024 at 10:29 AM

[Quote from Julia](#)

My commentary:

The connotation of "setting oneself free" is exactly what I miss in words like "to reject / rejection" and also "to avoid / avoidance" (which I had initially chosen myself). It is, in my mind, somewhat present in "evade" (which I chose after). It is strongly present, but also strongly obscured in the modern English "to flee / flight". To translate the Epicurean sense of φεύγω (pheugo), "setting oneself free" might actually be the best I've seen so far. It goes along well with the associations of fears and addictions, it has commitment, agency, and a certain urgency without the necessary connotation of immediate danger to life and limb. If I set myself free of something, I also reject it. If I set myself free of what haunts me, I evade it.

This translation seems to have it all!

I *think* I like that direction... Although it's not the single word you were looking for initially.