

The Garland of Tranquility and a Reposed Life

Post by "Bryan" of May 17, 2025 at 9:53 PM

[Quote from Joshua](#)

'thrice-garlanded'

I fully agree with your line of thinking, Joshua.

The sentence ending with "**ῶθεισθαι / to be pushed**" has led most translators toward the "wheel" interpretation -- but it can just as easily mean "compelled."

With that problem out of the way, **τρικύλιστος** certainly has a basic meaning of "**rolled three times**" -- but with **κυλιστός** meaning "*twined in a circle*, an epithet of a kind of garland" (as LSJ states, and as you and Athenaïos have shown) -- "**rolled**" can certainly refer to a **garland**. (It seems most of the "garlands" Athenaïos is discussing are worn on the head, so I think we are talking about **wreaths**.)

So the only remaining mystery is the prefix "**three**" -- which could easily be a colloquialism for either **entwining three different plants** to make one wreath, or just **placing one upon the other** -- the effect would be similar.

Regarding "Three," we do see our Philōnidēs of Laodíkeia honored with three distinct wreaths (στέφανοι) in the inscription Attica, IG II2 1236:

"...the people honored him: both [the elder] Philōnidēs himself and his sons Philōnidēs and Dicaearchus - with citizenship, and crowned them with **(1) a wreath of laurel** and again with **(2) a golden wreath...** ...to praise [the elder] Philōnidēs of Laodicea and his sons Philōnidēs and Dicaearchus, and to crown each of them with **(3) a wreath of myrtle**, which it is customary to use when crowning their own benefactors."

Significantly, these are specifically honors given to Philōnidēs **by the Athenians**.

So it could mean, in the context of Epikouros' letter to Themísta, "*with all the honors you have given me in your letter*" (i.e., crowned with multiple compliments)"