

VS63 - "Frugality Too Has A Limit..."

Post by "Eikadistes" of August 22, 2025 at 1:15 AM

I think there's a subtle, nautical metaphor Epíkouros encrypted here.

I'm looking at the active participle (in the dative singular) τῷ ἐκπίπτοντι (*tōi ekpíptonti*), which Bailey translates as "*him who errs*". The phrase is referring to "the one doing the *ekpíptō*-ing", or "*the one falling out of...*", as in "...out of a boat", for example, "*being cast ashore*".

With this in mind, consider the second part of the prepositional phrase δι' ἀοριστίαν (*di' aoristían*) that Bailey translates as "through excess". The word ἀοριστίαν (*aoristían*) comes from ἀ- ("*not*") and οριστικός ("*definite*"), which is the root word from which we receive "*horizon*" and "*horizontal*".

So, "the one doing the *ekpíptō*-ing" is doing so διὰ (*diá*) "by way of", "on account of", or "due to" something being "indefinite" (for example, a boundary, limit, or horizon). If there aren't any lighthouses, and the captain views an indefinite horizon, the boat is likely to crash.

I think he's calling someone who can't "live simply" a *trainwreck*, or in this case, a "*ship-wreck*".