

Episode 308 - TD36 - Tracing Epicurus' Key Ideas From the Principal Doctrines To The Tetrapharmakon To Cicero's Epicurean Speakers

Post by "Cassius" of November 21, 2025 at 6:51 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

At risk of being a broken record, is important to remember that the first two lines are *not* commands. They're not in the imperative: "Don't do this." They are statements of fact:

You're not a broken record on this at all.

This part let me be clear I don't say sarcastically at all --- I just look forward to the day that your translation prevails over Wikipedia consensus!

This is a large part of what we are up against!

As expressed by Philodemus, and preserved in a Herculaneum Papyrus (1005, 5.9–14), the *tetrapharmakon* reads:⁷⁷

Don't fear god,	ἆραβον ὁ θεός,
Don't worry about death,	ἀντιοικτον ὁ θάνατος
What is good is easy to get,	καὶ τὸ καλὸν μὲν εὐκρίβητον,
What is terrible is easy to endure	τὸ δὲ δεινὸν εὐκακρότητον

Don also what about the "easy" part -- do you agree with Wikipedia that "easy" is a fair translation, or would you modify that as well?