

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

Post by "Don" of November 22, 2025 at 9:22 AM

I'm getting the sense of, instead of "easy" which to me implies a level of dismissiveness, a better idea would be "without effort or struggle." To illustrate this point, here are some of the other words in the same area of the LSJ dictionary:

- εὐείσβολος , ον, easily invaded
- εὐέκ-βα^τος , ον, easy to get out of
- εὐέκ-κάθαρος [κα^], ον, easily cleared up
- εὐέκ-καρτέρητος , ον, easy to endure
- εὐέκ-καυτος , ον, easily flaring up, Gal.11.405
- εὐέκ-κρι^τος , ον, of food, easy to excrete
- εὐέκ-νιπτος , ον, easy to wash out, of a colour
- εὐέκ-πλήρωτος , ον, easily fulfilled or realized
- εὐέκ-ποίητος , ον, easy to turn to account, i.e. assimilate, of food
- εὐέκ-πόρθητος , ον, easily sacked
- εὐέκ-πύρωτος [υ^], ον, easily heated (The soil is dry and easily reduced to powder - ἄλμυρίδων καὶ εὐέκπύρωτός ἐστι - [Strabo, Geography](#))
- εὐέκ-ρυπτος , ον, easy to wash out

So, I don't necessarily like the "easy" or "easily" connotations in English, but I could easily (pun intended) see the εὐ- and εὐέκ- conveying whatever action is implied by the rest of the word, that it involved no effort, no struggle.

In relation to the tetracharmakos:

Pleasure really is attainable without effort, it's always readily available if we look for it.

Pain is endurable without struggle in the sense of adding suffering on top of pain. Pain is inevitable but suffering, adding an additional layer to pain, is not necessary. ex. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/meditation-is-optional>

That's my take this morning.