

Discussion of the Society of Epicurus' 20 Tenets of 12/21/19

Post by "Elli" of December 27, 2019 at 11:25 AM

Patriarchy, Matriarchy, Hierarchy, Oligarchy, Monarchy, Diarchy, Triarchy, Autarchy, Anarchy...and happy holidays for all. 😊😊

I would like to comment here, for a few greek words such as : αυτάρκεια, αυταρχία, εγκράτεια & ευδαιμονία.

The greek word "**αυτάρκεια**" [pron. as aftárkea] consists of two words which are : "εαυτός" (thyself) + the verb "αρκώ" [pron. arkó] that means "It's sufficient or it's enough" i.e. **aftárkea** means the **self-sufficient**, but some persons that do not know the greek language at all, they transformed this word, in english, as "**Autarchy**"! 😊

However, as a greek Epicurean I thought to make for this specific word a small statistical research, and I made it on my personal FB profile. Well, the majority of my FB friends who know both greek and english very well, they understood (correctly) the meaning of the word "**autarchy**" as <<**the monarchy, the despotism and dictatorship**>>, since "autarchy" includes the word "**ευατός**" (thyself) + the verb "**άρχω**" [pron. árcho] that means oneself that rules/governs others. So, the word «αυταρχία» [pron. as **aftarchéa**], as it is used in greek language till our days, it means **oneself i.e. a man that rules/governs others**; and it's synonym with the word "**monarchy**" i.e. oneself that governs others.

Thus, the word "autarchy" has neither the meaning of the self-govern nor the self-sufficient actually, since there is already a similar greek word for the self-govern which is "**εγκράτεια+εγκρατής**" (pron. engrátia+engratis) and in english is "**self-restraint**" or "**temperance**". Although, Epicurus has nothing to do with the self-govern or the self-restraint or temperance, of course. Epicurus just spoke clearly for self-sufficient - aftárkea - that is a mean that is measured - as any other mean - through hedonic calculus according to the circumstances and the consequences of the experiences for the achievement of the goal of pleasure.

In addition, and in the same way "autarchy" is being used to mean "self-sufficient," I would ask: Why not transform the Greek word "ευδαιμονία" [pron. as eudaemonía] in English as "eudaemon+archy" ("pleasure-archy")? Why not? Because the deepest purpose, above all, of "-archy/archo" is the meaning of governing others! Some people seem to want to use Greek words even when they change their meaning, because they do not consider their etymology at all. And when I say "they do not consider," I mean, above all, that they do not have a clue about the clarity that Epicurus was asking for!