

An Approach to Reading Philosophy

Post by "Elli" of December 31, 2019 at 4:38 PM

τὸ δὲ δεινὸν εὐεκκαρτέρητον

the translation in english is "what is terrible is easy to endure", but the word "καρτέρι" in greek means the "ambush".

e.g. The commandment ordered them to fire from ambush.

So, the phrase in english could be "what is terrible is easy, because you're waiting to attack" IF you have a strategy on how to attack, since you do not forget your goal that is pleasure.

However, this little phrase can be connected with the Epicurus's epistle which is addressed to Idomeneus, inciting him to rush as soon as possible and escape, before a stronger force interferes and deprives him of the freedom to withdraw. But he also adds that no one would attempt anything, except only when he can attempt it in the appropriate conditions and with the appropriate opportunity. But when the expected opportunity comes, we must be ready to grab it. Epicurus forbids us to stay idle, when we think about fleeing, and gives us the hope of a way out even from the most difficult situations, as long as we are not in a hurry before our time and do not hesitate when the right one comes.