

PD08 - Best Translation of PD08 To Feature At EpicureanFriends.com

Post by “Cassius” of August 23, 2023 at 9:18 PM

The following post is one of a series so that we can get our collection of [the main list of Principal Doctrines under the "Texts" section](#) in better shape. Although this thread will include a "poll" in the next post, what we are really looking for is the "best" combination of faithfulness to the original combined with clarity in modern English. I will get with a collection of the Level 3 participants here to work on editing the final list, but the full discussion should be open to everyone to consider, so that's what we will do here. The results of the poll won't control what is featured on the text page but will definitely influence in and probably at least result in a footnote to this thread.

The English translation of [PD08](#) currently featured here in our Texts section is our normal Cyril Bailey from his [Extant Remains](#):

[PD08](#). No pleasure is a bad thing in itself; but the means which produce some pleasures bring with them disturbances many times greater than the pleasures.

We have access ([thanks to Nate's full collection](#)) to many different variations including:

“No pleasure is intrinsically bad: but the effective causes of some pleasures bring with them a great many perturbations of pleasure.” Yonge (1853)

“No pleasure is evil in itself, but the objects productive of certain pleasures may lead to annoyances many times greater than the pleasure.” Wallace, Epicureanism 150 (1880)

“No pleasure is in itself evil, but the things which produce certain pleasures entail annoyances many times greater than the pleasures themselves.” Hicks (1910)

“No pleasure is in itself evil, but the things which produce certain pleasures entail annoyances many times greater than the pleasures themselves.” Hicks (1925)

“No pleasure is a bad thing in itself: but the means which produce some pleasures bring with them disturbances many times greater than the pleasures.” Bailey (1926)

“No pleasure is evil in itself but the practices productive of certain pleasures bring troubles in their train that by many times outweigh the pleasures themselves.” De Witt, Epicurus and His Philosophy 235 (1954)

“No pleasure is evil in itself; but the means by which certain pleasures are gained bring pains many times greater than the pleasures.” Geer (1964)

“No pleasure is something bad per se: but the causes of some pleasures produce stresses many times greater than the pleasures” Long, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* 115 (1987)

“No pleasure is evil in itself; but the means of obtaining some pleasures bring in their wake troubles many times greater than the pleasures.” O'Connor (1993)

“No pleasure is a bad thing in itself. But the things which produce certain pleasures bring troubles many times greater than the pleasures.” Inwood & Gerson (1994)

“No pleasure is a bad thing in itself, but some pleasures are only obtainable at the cost of excessive troubles.” Anderson (2004)

“No pleasure is a morally bad thing in itself. But the agents that produce certain pleasures bring about vexations that outnumber the pleasures themselves.” Makridis (2005)

“No pleasure is bad in itself; but the means of paying for some pleasures bring with them disturbances many times greater than the pleasures themselves.” Saint-Andre (2008)

“No pleasure is bad in itself. But the things that make for pleasure in certain cases entail disturbances many times greater than the pleasures themselves.” Strodach (2012)

“No pleasure is intrinsically bad; but the means of producing certain pleasures may entail annoyances many times greater than the pleasures themselves.” Mensch (2018)

“No pleasure is in itself anything bad; but some pleasures are produced by things that bring along troubles many times greater than those pleasures.” White (2021)

Which of the above, or which with changes you would suggest, should be featured here in the main list? In the interest of space the poll will not include every option, so please add a comment in the thread if you would suggest a variation not listed.

Post by “Cassius” of August 23, 2023 at 9:21 PM

What is the Best Translation of [PD08](#) To Feature At EpicureanFriends.com?

Post by “Don” of August 23, 2023 at 9:26 PM

My translation: No pleasure is itself bad, but that which produces [some] pleasures can bring many times greater distress, annoyances, and disturbances than pleasure.

- οὐδεμίᾱ feminine nominative and vocative singular of οὐδεῖς
 - οὐδεῖς no one, nobody, none, nothing, no
- καθά
 - for καθ' ἃ, according as, just as, Xen.:— so καθάπερ, ionic κατάπερ, Hdt., Ar., etc.:—strengthd., καθάπερ εἰ, ionic κατάπερ εἰ, like as if, exactly as, Hdt., Plat.; καθάπερ ἄν Dem.; καθάπερ ἄν εἰ Plat., etc.
- τινῶν genitive plural masculine form of τις
- ποιητικός
 - > ποιέω
 - capable of making, creative, productive, Arist.
- πολλαπλάσιος, πολύς
 - 1. many times as many, many times more or larger, Hdt.
 - 2. πολλ. ἢ . . . , or ἥπερ . . . , many times as many as . . . , many times more or larger than . . . , id=Hdt., Plat.; so c. gen., Hdt., Thuc., etc.:— neut. pl. as adv., Xen.
 - πολλαπλάσιος, η, ον
- ἐπιφέρω to bestow, put, lay upon