

PD09 - Best Translation of PD09 To Feature At EpicureanFriends.com

Post by “Cassius” of September 10, 2023 at 7:28 AM

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 [PD09](#) currently featured here in our Texts section is our normal Cyril Bailey from his [Extant Remains](#):

[PD09](#). If every pleasure could be intensified so that it lasted, and influenced the whole organism or the most essential parts of our nature, pleasures would never differ from one another. [\[3\]](#)

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

ΕΙ ΚΑΤΕΠΥΚΝΟΥΤΟ ΠΑΣΑ ΗΔΟΝΗ ΚΑΙ ΧΡΟΝΩ ΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙ ΟΛΟΝ ΤΟ ΑΘΡΟΙΣΜΑ ΥΠΗΡΧΕΝ Η ΤΑ ΚΥΡΙΩΤΑΤΑ ΜΕΡΗ ΤΗΣ ΦΥΣΕΩΣ ΟΥΚ ΑΝ ΠΟΤΕ ΔΙΕΦΕΡΟΝ ΑΛΛΗΛΩΝ ΑΙ ΗΔΟΝΑΙ.

“If every pleasure were condensed, if one may so say, and if each lasted long, and affected the whole body, or the essential parts of it, then there would be no difference between one pleasure and another.” Yonge (1853)

“If all pleasure had been capable of accumulation, if this had gone on not only in time, but all over the frame or, at any rate, the principal parts of man's nature, there would not have been any difference between one pleasure and another as, in fact, there now is.” Hicks (1910)

“If all pleasure had been capable of accumulation,—if this had gone on not only by recurrence in time, but all over the frame or, at any rate, over the principal parts of man's nature, there would never have been any difference between one pleasure and another, as in fact there is.” Hicks (1925)

“If every pleasure could be intensified so that it lasted and influenced the whole organism or the most essential parts of our nature, pleasures would never differ from one another.” Bailey (1926)

"If every pleasure were alike condensed in duration and associated with the whole organism or the dominant parts of it, pleasures would never differ from one another." De Witt, Epicurus and His Philosophy 235 (1954)

"If every pleasure were cumulative, and if this were the case both in time and in regard to the whole or the most important parts of our nature, then pleasures would not differ from each other." Geer (1964)

"If every pleasure were condensed in <location> and duration and distributed all over the structure or the dominant parts of our nature, pleasures would never differ from one another." Long, The Hellenistic Philosophers 115 (1987)

"If every pleasure were condensed and existed for a long time throughout the entire organism or its most important parts, pleasures would never differ from one another." O'Connor (1993)

"If every pleasure were condensed and were present, both in time and in the whole compound [body and soul] or in the most important parts of our nature, then pleasures would never differ from one another." Inwood & Gerson (1994)

"If every pleasure could be prolonged to endure in both body or mind, pleasures would never differ from one another." Anderson (2004)

"If all pleasures could be added together consecutively with respect to space and duration, and across the entire span over which they had all existed, or at least across the principal parts of human nature <which are naturally susceptible to pleasures:> then, pleasures would not be different from each other in any respect." Makridis (2005)

"If every pleasure were condensed and were present at the same time and in the whole of one's nature or its primary parts, then the pleasures would never differ from one another." Saint-Andre (2008)

"If all pleasures could be compressed in time and intensity, and were characteristic of the whole man or his more important aspects, the various pleasures would not differ from each other." Strodach (2012)

"If all pleasure were condensed in space and time, and pervaded the whole aggregate, or the most important parts of our nature, pleasures would never differ, one from another." Mensch (2018)

"If every pleasure were concentrated in place and time and affected our whole aggregate or the most important parts of our nature, pleasures would never differ from one another." 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 September 10, 2023 at 7:29 AM

Poll Question

Post by “Cassius” of September 10, 2023 at 8:39 AM

This post by Don and the exchange there with Nate is of significance to this thread:

Post

[RE: Would You Rather Live For A Week As \(1\) Epicurus During the Last Week of His Life or \(2\) An Anonymous Shepherd Laying In The Grass In The Summertime With No Pain At All?](#)

In going back to @Nate 's compilation and looking at the [Greek construction of the "if" clauses](#), I think Hicks gives the proper paraphrase:

[...]

It seems to me (check my Greek, please!) that the specific construction of [PD09](#) falls under the unreal present as defined in that Wikipedia article and elsewhere:

Present unreal conditions

Unreal (counterfactual) conditions referring to present time are made with εἰ (ei) followed by the imperfect indicative in the protasis, and the imperfect...



Don

September 10, 2023 at 5:25 AM

Post by “Godfrey” of September 10, 2023 at 9:13 PM

Inwood separates "condensed" from time and place, which makes the most sense to me. Also he makes it clear that both body and "soul" are included. However I prefer "intensified" to "condensed", and perhaps "mind" to "soul".