

Epicurus' Public Domain Translations - All At Once In One Place

Post by “TauPhi” of April 2, 2025 at 5:46 PM

There are 112 pages in the attached pdf file. Each page contains one section of Epicurus' core texts (the three letters and [Principal Doctrines](#)) as per Diogenes Laertius' notation and is marked as such at the top.

Every page has four sections. Epicurus' words in Greek are followed by three translations: Yonge's, Hicks' and Bailey's. I think such arrangement can enhance the study of the philosophy by increased understanding of each passage.

I know there are more modern translations available but I included only those translations which are complete (i.e. all core texts are translated) and are in public domain. This way, the attached file can be freely distributed and used without any constraints.

This is an initial version and most likely contains some errors. Please let me know if you see something in need of correction or you have an idea how the file can be improved. I'll do what I can to make it better.

Have a blast studying!

Post by “Cassius” of April 2, 2025 at 7:41 PM

Great - thanks very much Tau Phi!

Post by “Bryan” of April 2, 2025 at 11:16 PM

This is excellent, very clear and will certainly prove helpful. Although the idea is simple, I do not think I have seen it done before. A link to this should probably be on the main page, as it really has the essential texts, in a beautifully accessible format. Thank you!

Post by "Cassius" of April 3, 2025 at 6:59 AM

Tau Phi when I click on the pdf I get a window that shows this:



Have you tried getting the PDF generator to produce a table of contents with the names of the letters and name for major sections like the [Principal Doctrines](#), Will of Epicurus, etc? That would probably be more useful than the page thumbnails, if that's possible. And yes I agree with Bryan's suggestion and I will rework a section of the front page to make it easier to see where to find versions of the texts like this.

Post by "TauPhi" of April 3, 2025 at 4:52 PM

Thanks for the suggestion, [Cassius](#). Detailed TOC is now added to the letters/doctrines and to each of the 112 sections as well.

Also, feel free to put this file into 'files section' for general accessibility, if you think it's worthwhile. This file contains 100% of public domain material.

Post by “Cassius” of April 3, 2025 at 6:47 PM

That looks great and thank you Tau Phi!

Post by “Cassius” of April 4, 2025 at 10:36 AM

Added to the "Files" section here.

File

[Diogenes Laertius Book X - Core Texts of Epicurus - Three Public Domain Versions In One PDF - By Tau Phi](#)

Tau Phi's Edition of The Yonge, Bailey, and Hicks Translations of core parts of Diogenes Laertius Book X. The PDF is bookmarked with direct links to the letters of Epicurus and to the Principal Doctrines.



Cassius

September 8, 2025 at 10:19 AM

Tau Phi, I included you as one of the people who can edit that section, so if you make revisions you should be able to upload them there yourself -- or just flag me and I'll do it. Thanks again!

Post by “TauPhi” of April 4, 2025 at 3:25 PM

Thanks [Cassius](#).

As I mentioned earlier, if anyone notices any mistakes or has some ideas how to make that resource better, give me a shout and I'll try to make it happen.

Post by “Cleveland Okie” of April 5, 2025 at 7:31 PM

Thanks, TauPhi. I have downloaded. I bought the translations collection Emily Austin recommended at the end of her book (e.g. "The Epicurean Reader," Inwood and Gerson) but I will be checking this out.

Post by “Cassius” of April 5, 2025 at 7:33 PM

Tau Phi ---

I've been working with Book ten myself recently and in looking back over the versions that I have here at the site and in various other places, I find it very difficult to line up some paragraphs between the three versions because it appears that different translators are using different text arrangements and/or line numbers.

When I was working with the Lucretius texts I ended up using the Rouse/Loeb as "canonical" for numbering purposes, and then I forced the other translations to fit.

Did you do something similar with this PDF, or did you not run into such issues for some reason? If you used one version as the "master" reference for line numbering, which did you use?

Post by “Bryan” of April 5, 2025 at 9:23 PM

Yes I was happy to see you, TauPhi, did not follow Bailey's order for the letter to Herodotus. Giving little explanations why his translation is missing/moved in some places is the perfect way to deal with it.

Post by “Cassius” of April 6, 2025 at 6:51 AM

Bryan you are probably here one of the most expert on the full text of Diogenes Laertius. To which would you look for the best order for all of Book X? If not Bailey, Hicks?

(I see an example of such a note in Herodotus 61 of the PDF. I don't know how many such notes there are, but it would be a desirable to maybe include a statement as to what/which order the PDF follows?)

Post by “Cassius” of April 6, 2025 at 7:41 AM

Tau Phi I know what you've already done has been a huge amount of work, but let me ask this: Does the method of assembly you used make it possible with reasonable effort to:

1 - Do the same thing for the rest of Diogenes Laertius so that we have the full Book X in one place? That makes it much easier for word searching.

2 - In cutting and pasting from the PDF I am seeing a problem that I've had with other PDFs of my own in the past -- there's something wrong with the constructions involving "f" that corrupts the words. For example, here is paste of Herodotus from Hicks 44: Note the 'o ering' and "aner" and " inds." Do you get the same thing? Is there anything we can do to fix this - if we need to we can spell check and hand edit but that will need to be done before generating the PDF. We can get you some help with that if it would help.

Quote

Hicks, 1925 This is because each atom is separated from the rest by void, which is incapable of offering any resistance to the rebound; while it is the solidity of the atom which makes it rebound after a collision, however short the distance to which it rebounds, when it finds itself imprisoned in a mass of entangling atoms.

Post by “Bryan” of April 6, 2025 at 10:06 AM

Most editors follow the same order, and those who have proposed changes to that order have lost the argument over time (and thus have only added unnecessary confusion). As far as I have seen, the order followed in this PDF is the one currently being published by Cambridge.

The 'f' issue is also occurring on my computer.

Post by "TauPhi" of April 6, 2025 at 4:46 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Did you do something similar with this PDF, or did you not run into such issues for some reason? If you used one version as the "master" reference for line numbering, which did you use?

Yonge's and Hick's translations are mostly aligned the same. Bailey took more liberties with his translation (including 2 sections where he decided to move large chunks of passages to another sections - 46 and 47 were transferred to 61 and 62 respectively).

For these reasons, my alignment algorithm looked like this:

- 1) if Y and H are the same but B is not - align B to match the rest
- 2) if Y and H are different, compare to B and if Y or H match B, go with the majority for alignment
- 3) if all are different, go to <https://logeion.uchicago.edu/> translate Greek words at the end of one section and the beginning of the following section to determine the correct split

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Tau Phi I know what you've already done has been a huge amount of work, but let me ask this: Does the method of assembly you used make it possible with reasonable effort to:

- 1 - Do the same thing for the rest of Diogenes Laertius so that we have the full Book X in one place? That makes it much easier for word searching.
- 2 - In cutting and pasting from the PDF I am seeing a problem that I've had with other PDFs of my own in the past -- there's something wrong with the constructions involving

"f" that corrupts the words.

1- It's very much doable. I've done 112 out of 154 sections already so there are only 42 sections left in Book X (27%). As far as I know, all three translators did the entirety of Book X so I don't see any reasons why this couldn't be done. I decided to do only Epicurus' sections because I wanted core texts in one place without any fluff.

2- I used Ghostscript to add ToC to the document and it looks like there's some issue with the characters' encoding during recompilation process. I'll try to find another way to do it. In the meantime, please use my initial file without ToC. It should work without any issues.

Post by "Cassius" of April 6, 2025 at 5:09 PM

Thank you Tau Phi! This is a huge effort and I appreciate any of it you can complete!

Post by "Cassius" of April 7, 2025 at 3:04 PM

I've been continuing to work on a format that I can use as a web version in similar side-by-side as in the [Lucretius page](#), but the differences in line numberings between the editions are really a bear.

I'll proceed as best I can using the Hicks/Loeb as the standard, but because there are all sorts of differences in groupings (plus decisions as to whether to include scholium) the finished product will hopefully match the original content, but not have consistent line numbering. I'm not sure there's much way to deal with any of this other than do the best we can, and then point to PDFs of the original editions so people can check the PDFs to verify the originals. I suspect Tau Phi's is going to be more precise than mine (it definitely is so far) so when his full book ten comes out I'll do my best to bring a web version in conformity with his.

Bryan when you referred to the Cambridge edition, I am guessing you are talking about the academic one that's mostly in Greek. Do you know how closely the Loeb/Hicks conforms to that? I don't know that there's a much better choice than that one (Loeb/Hicks), if we want to pick one of the public domains as the "standard."

Post by “Bryan” of April 7, 2025 at 3:53 PM

The Cambridge edition conforms to the general sequence of the Loeb (except at 120, which it splits by placing 121 in between — though this is only a matter of numbering; the text remains in the same order). Using the Hicks/Loeb as the standard will work.

Post by “Cassius” of April 7, 2025 at 5:01 PM

Well, here's a first draft of a web version, but I am not at all confident of some of the line divisions, and as to to the Greek version matching the divisions, it will be pure luck if some of them match 😊

It's going to take more effort to make this usable, but if Tau Phi is able to produce a more careful version in PDF, then I'll eventually make mine conform to his. I'd suggest that anyone who has time to volunteer focus on Tau Phi's version of the full book, and then I'll eventually get mine into shape from that.

[EpicureanFriends Side-By-Side Diogenes Laertius Ten](#)

Post by “Bryan” of April 7, 2025 at 5:25 PM

It seems that for many of the cells, the final sentence in Greek is placed into the next cell. A few examples:

Ἀκαδημείᾳ, Ἀριστοτέλους δ' ἐν
Χαλκίδι διατρίβοντος, τελευτήσαντος
δὲ Ἀλεξάνδρου τοῦ Μακεδόνοσ καὶ τῶν
Ἀθηναίων ἐκπεσόντων ὑπὸ Περδίκκου

2

μετελθεῖν εἰς Κολοφῶνα πρὸς τὸν
πατέρα· χρόνον δὲ τινα διατρίψαντα
αὐτόθι καὶ μαθητὰς ἀθροίσαντα πάλιν
ἐπανελθεῖν εἰς Ἀθήνας ἐπὶ
Ἀναξικράτους· καὶ μέχρι μὲν τινος κατ'

Perdiccas, Epicurus left Athens to
join his father in Colophon.

2

For some time he stayed there and
gathered disciples, but returned to
Athens in the archonship of
Anaxicrates. And for a while, it is
said, he prosecuted his studies in
common with the other philosophers,
but afterwards put forward

καταγνοντα των γραμματιστων επειση
μη ἐδυνήθησαν ἐρμηνεύσαι αὐτῶ τὰ
περὶ τοῦ παρ' Ἡσιόδῳ χάους. φησὶ δ'
Ἐρμιππος γραμματοδιδάσκαλον αὐτὸν
γεγενῆσθαι, ἔπειτα μέντοι περιτυχόντα

3

τοῖς Δημοκρίτου βιβλίοις ἐπὶ
φιλοσοφίαν ἄξει· διὸ καὶ τὸν Τίμωνα
φάσκειν περὶ αὐτοῦ·
ὑστατος αὖ φυσικῶν καὶ κύντατος, ἐκ
Σάμου ἐλθὼν
γραμμαδοδιδασκαλίδης, ἀναγωγότατος
ζώντων.
Συνεφιλοσόφουν δ' αὐτῶ
προτοειναμένω καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τοεῖς.

schoolmasters who could not tell him
the meaning of "chaos" in Hesiod.
According to Hermippus, however,
he started as a schoolmaster, but on
coming across the works of
Democritus turned eagerly to
philosophy.

3

Hence the point of Timon's allusion
in the lines:

Again there is the latest
and most shameless of
the physicists, the

οὗτος μὲν ὁ βίος τάνδρός, ἥδε δὲ ἡ
τελευτή.

Καὶ διέθετο ὧδε. "Κατὰ τάδε δίδωμι τὰ
ἑμαυτοῦ πάντα Ἀμυνομάχῳ
Φιλοκράτους Βατῆθεν καὶ Τιμοκράτει
Δημητρίου Ποταμῖῳ κατὰ τὴν ἐν τῷ
Μητρῷ ἀναγεγραμμένην ἑκα-

The Will

17

τέρῳ δόσιν, ἐφ' ᾧ τε τὸν μὲν κῆπον καὶ
τὰ προσόντα αὐτῷ παρέξουσιν
Ἐρμάρχῳ Ἀγεμόρτου Μυτιληναίῳ καὶ
τοῖς συμφιλοσοφοῦσιν αὐτῷ καὶ οἷς ἂν

Such was the life of the sage and such
his end. His last will was as follows:

The Will

17

"On this wise I give and bequeath all
my property to Amynomachus, son
of Philocrates of Bate and
Timocrates, son of Demetrius of
Potamus, to each severally according
to the items of the deed of gift laid up
in the Metron, on condition that they
shall place the garden and all that

τούτων, συμπαθὲς δὲ τούτῳ μᾶλλον καὶ
τῷ λοιπῷ ἄθροισματι· τούτο δὲ πᾶν αἰ
δυνάμεις τῆς ψυχῆς δηλοῦσι καὶ τὰ
πάθη καὶ αἰ εὐκινήσιαι καὶ αἰ διανοήσεις
καὶ ὧν στερόμενοι θνήσκομεν. καὶ μὴν
καὶ ὅτι ἔχει ἡ ψυχὴ τῆς αἰσθήσεως τὴν
πλείστην αἰτίαν δεῖ

64

κατέχειν· οὐ μὴν εἰλήφει ἂν ταύτην, εἰ
μὴ ὑπὸ τοῦ λοιποῦ ἄθροισματος
ἔστεγάζετό πως· τὸ δὲ λοιπὸν ἄθροισμα
παρασκευάσαν ἐκείνη τὴν αἰτίαν ταύτην
μετεῖληφε καὶ αὐτὸ τοιούτου
συμπτώματος παρ' ἐκείνης, οὐ μέντοι

mental faculties and feelings, by the
ease with which the mind moves, and
by thoughts, and by all those things
the loss of which causes death.

64

Further, we must keep in mind that
soul has the greatest share in causing
sensation. Still, it would not have had
sensation, had it not been somehow
confined within the rest of the frame.
But the rest of the frame, though it
provides this indispensable condition
for the soul, itself also has a share,
derived from the soul, of the said

Post by "Cassius" of April 7, 2025 at 6:43 PM

Thank you Bryan -- I don't want you to have to paste more screen shots. I will edit these, presumably using my Hix/Loeb to match the greek to the right place. It'll take time but I'll get it done.