

## PD03 - General Commentary - Doctrine 3

Post by "Cassius" of April 29, 2015 at 10:09 PM

General

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Post by "Bryan" of January 16, 2021 at 10:46 AM

"The limit in the amount of pleasures  
is the Removal of all pain.  
Whenever there is Pleasure,  
then for that time that it is present,  
there is no Pain or Sadness  
or any Mixture of both."

Metródoros makes the same point from a different angle:

"This very thing is the good:  
Escaping from the bad-  
because It is not possible for the Good to be placed anywhere  
when neither What is painful nor What is distressing is any longer making way for it."

Τοῦτο αὐτὸ τὸ ἀγαθὸν ἐστὶ:

τὸ φυγεῖν τὸ κακόν-

ἐνθα γὰρ τεθήσεται τὸ ἀγαθὸν οὐκ ἔστιν

ὅταν μηθὲν ἔτι ὑπεξίη μήτε Ἄλγεινὸν μήτε Λυπηρόν"

-preserved by Plutarch at 1091 A-B in his diatribe "Ὅτι οὐδέ ἡδεως ζην ἐστὶν κατ' Ἐπίκουρον"

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## Post by “Don” of January 16, 2021 at 11:31 AM

Thanks for posting these. I've really enjoyed your translation work!

My contention has been that anytime we see το αγαθόν / ταγαθον , it can be translated colloquially as "pleasure" ( literally The Good with capitalization rendering its importance in an English way that's not necessarily possible in the original text since a lot of those manuscripts used [an uncial script](#))

Plus I tend to read το κακόν in these contexts as "pain."

Some popular translations seem to obfuscate the importance of pleasure and pain in the philosophy by using "the good" and "the bad/evil."

This came home to me in looking at the Tetrpharmakos with ταγαθον "the good" and το δεινον "the terrible" easily paraphrased as pleasure and pain.

I look forward to more of your work!!

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## Post by “Bryan” of January 16, 2021 at 11:38 AM

I very much agree. This gives the translation *just a little bit* of added interpretation, but is certainly more natural.

"This very thing is pleasure:

Escaping from pain-

because It is not possible for pleasure to be placed anywhere

when neither What is painful nor What is distressing is any longer making way for it."

-Metródoros