

abrogate your duty as a translator. Your duty as a translator is to think up the right expression, though it may have to be a paraphrase, which will give the reader the exact shade of meaning *here and here and here*.

The translator, let me suggest in passing, must never be frightened of the word ‘paraphrase’; it is a bogey of the half-educated. As I have already tried to point out, it is almost impossible to translate a sentence without paraphrasing; it is a paraphrase when you translate ‘Comment vous portez-vous?’ by ‘How are you?’ But often enough it will be a single word that calls for paraphrase. When St. Paul describes people as ‘wise according to the flesh’, the translator is under an obligation to paraphrase. In English speech, you might be called fat according to the flesh, or thin according to the flesh, but not wise or foolish. The flesh here means natural, human standards of judging, and the translator has got to say so. ‘Wise according to the flesh’ is Hebrew in English dress; it is not English. You have not translated ‘Galeotto fu il libro, e chi lo scrisse’, if you write, ‘The book was Galahad, and so was the man who wrote it’. Dante’s ‘Galeotto’ (being paraphrased) means ‘a pandar’; and how (shades of Lord Tennyson!) is the English reader to know that?

The sentence, the phrase, the word—over all these the translator must keep watch; must beware of the instinct which bids him save trouble, or avoid criticism, by giving a merely photographic reproduction of his original. Nor does his task end there; his matter

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