

# Toward A Better Understanding of Epicurean Justice And Injustice (With Examples of "Just" and "Unjust")

Post by "Cassius" of March 24, 2021 at 11:11 PM

## [Quote from Don](#)

Epicurus's conscience deterrent seems woefully lacking and without real teeth. It \*almost\* seems - dare I say - idealistic, and expects humans all to be subject to the same fear.

I think his response would be that the options are (1) human feelings (the conscience you refer to) or (2) supernatural gods or (3) platonic ideals being somehow self-enforcing. Since 2 and 3 don't exist, (1) wins by a landslide!

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No I don't think Epicurus was relying on feelings to be self-enforcing at all! He was relying on human feelings as motivators to human action, including armies, and police forces, and law courts, etc! This is another illustration of why it is absurd to think that Epicurus suggested everyone live in a cave -- these functions are vital to our safety as Epicureans (and to everyone else) so someone has to perform them, including Epicureans like Cassius, who took ultimate civil authority into his own hands in helping lead the revolution against Caesar.

So in the it is one of those dangerous aspects of life that some people have no conscience and are killers, just like wolves and lions. We in civil society will organize force to deal with them and if done rationally can hope to be successful most of the time.