

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

Post by "Don" of April 5, 2021 at 9:37 PM

Just checking KD 31-38... The word pleasure $\eta\delta\omicron\nu\eta$ or its synonyms or variants do not appear in them, which makes sense. Like I said above, pleasure has to do with individual humans. I am coming to the idea that "justice" "civilized behavior" has to do with providing individual human beings the most conducive environment in which to live the most pleasurable life. An environment - a community - which allows humans to make the choices and rejections that lead to a pleasurable life based on the Canon. The community must uphold the criteria of "not being harmed and not doing harm": the most basic agreement for a just/civilized community no matter the size: a band of Neanderthals living in a cave to a nation like the US and so on. Acts between people must uphold that agreement. Acts between nations must uphold that agreement... Where that agreement exists! That's the tricky part of these KDs.

But the community needs to be peaceful and stable. Justice maintains this peace and stability. Unjust acts need to be punished to maintain that peace and stability. Epicurus seems to rely heavily on one's conscience to get the person to not engage in unjust acts for fear of getting caught and of punishment. But the last two KDs may also figure into this. So, that's where I'll be going next.

However, y'all feel free to comment on these thoughts, too.