

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

Post by "Cassius" of April 6, 2021 at 5:46 AM

I am sorry I got distracted yesterday and wasn't able to reply, and I am still thinking about your suggestions here without reaching a conclusion yet. You are probably right to be considering the analogy with "civil" law and "criminal law." Also related are the terms "malum in se" (bad in itself) and "malum prohibitum" (bad because it is prohibited) - a classic latter of the example being driving on whatever side of the road is designated as against the law in that locality. One question to ask is whether Epicurus would accept even the idea of "malum in se." Possibly, but only with clear statements of what is meant and why.

It is statements like this which cause me concern:

## [Quote from Don](#)

But the community needs to be peaceful and stable. Justice maintains this peace and stability.

When you say "the community needs...." you are making an observation that is no doubt true (organizations of any kind have a need to perpetuate their existence) but I see nothing in the texts that indicate to me that Epicurus was in any way concerned with the needs of "organizations." It seems to me that Epicurus was focused on the issues of feelings - pleasure and pain - and only individual human beings have those feelings. Now he might have been referring to organizational concepts as a part of showing how they are obstacles to pleasure, as he referred to false religions and false philosophies, so it is a possibility that he was singling out "justice" for attention given its status as one of the classic "virtues" which are elevated to ends in themselves.

But I am still in thinking mode and again would like to see more discussion.