

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

Post by "Don" of April 6, 2021 at 11:20 AM

In your scenario, the burglar has initiated an unjust act in going against the laws of the community (I'm assuming there are laws against burglary and murder in this hypothetical society especially if it's our own). The potential victim is protecting themselves from harm.

As for definitions of harm let's let Epicurus speak for himself. He says specifically in several KDs:

μη βλάπτειν μηδὲ βλάπτεσθαι.

Neither βλάπτειν nor βλάπτεσθαι.

βλάπτειν

Infinitive of βλάπτω

to disable, to hinder

to harm, to hurt, to damage

βλάπτεσθαι

middle/passive infinitive of βλάπτω

which refers the action/benefit back to oneself

That's where the "don't be harmed" comes from.

Here's the LSJ for βλάπτω for full context:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...7:entry=bla/ptw>

And

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...8:entry=bla/ptw>