

# Exploration of Epicurean Concepts of Justice, Contracts, & Not to Harm or Be Harmed

Post by "Cassius" of January 1, 2022 at 2:41 PM

## [Quote from Don](#)

I also need to point out that, from my reading, personal pleasure and pain don't enter into Epicurus's formulation of justice in the PDs. There's no mention on them in [PD31](#) to [PD38](#). It's all about the basic agreement, contract, covenant, mutual benefit, etc.

I would say that the Pds on justice are closely analogous to, and should be understood to be part of, Epicurus' overall view on virtue (justice generally being considered a virtue). As such, justice is ultimately a tool for the pleasure of ourselves and our friends, in the same way as is wisdom and prudence and the rest. And that's why it is so clear in those PD's that when circumstances change, that which was deemed "just" before is seen to be no longer just.

## [Quote from Kalosyni](#)

Since so much of what Epicurus wrote was lost, we can't know if back in Epicurus' time, his community had some sort of precepts that were taken or agreed upon.

I would expect that the Twelve Fundamentals and the [Principal Doctrines](#) probably served largely in that role, but yet presumably there were probably grades of agreement whereby those who were closest were held to higher standards. That would certainly make sense.