

Should Epicurus be viewed as a pure consequentialist, virtue ethicist, or both?

Post by "Eikadistes" of May 8, 2026 at 10:19 AM

So long as we understand we're trying to map ancient thinkers using contemporary terminology, I'm comfortable saying that Epíkouros firmly fits within the category of **consequentialism**. Most philosophers we view as virtue ethicists and deontologists are anti-Epicurean.

Hedonism is represented as a form of consequentialism, and, according to Epíkouros, "Pleasure is The Goal" and virtues are merely instrumental goods to achieve The Goal of Pleasure.