

# The "Non-Aggression Principle" And Its Relationship To Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Cassius" of July 18, 2021 at 3:01 PM

[Insert Link](#)Yes Godfrey I agree that is a good question, though I suspect that advocates of NAP have an answer to that in private enforcement structures.

Even before that, however, I would say that there is a more fundamental component as stated in [PD33](#) and is often translated as "

33. There never was such a thing as absolute justice, but only agreements made in mutual dealings among men in whatever places at various times providing against the infliction or suffering of harm." (Epicurus.net)

Therefore my first Epicurean concern about any principle which is asserted to be absolute is that in fact there ARE no absolute moral principles possible in an Epicurean universe. The practical test is always one of pain and pleasure, which are the only faculties given us by nature to determine what is desirable and what is undesirable.

So we definitely need to ask about the enforcing mechanism, but we also have to ask whether it is legitimate to consider the NAP as an absolute moral imperative, and I would suggest that Epicurus would say something like: "No, because there are no absolute moral imperatives."