

Episode Ninety-Eight - The Epicurean View of Justice (Part One)

Post by "Cassius" of December 2, 2021 at 8:25 AM

Another citation in the body of the podcast is to this quote from Cicero's "Republic" - in which he is stating the standard Platonic/Aristotelian view of justice, to which Epicurus objected:

Quote

True law is right reason in agreement with nature; it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting; it summons to duty by its commands, and averts from wrong-doing by its prohibitions. And it does not lay its commands or prohibitions upon good men in vain, though neither have any effect on the wicked. It is a sin to try to to sic alter this law, nor is it allowable to attempt to repeal any part of it, and it is impossible to abolish it entirely. We cannot be freed from its obligations by senate or people, and we need not look outside ourselves for an expounder or interpreter of it. And there will not be different laws at Rome and at Athens, or different laws now and in the future, but one eternal and unchangeable law will be valid for all nations and all times, and there will be one master and ruler, that is, God, over us all, for he is the author of this law, its promulgator, and its enforcing judge. Whoever is disobedient is fleeing from himself and denying his human nature, and by reason of this very fact he will suffer the worst penalties, even if he escapes what is commonly considered punishment.

I'll look for an exact cite and link so this can be read in context.

Here is an article that discusses the issue:
[https://www.academia.edu/43419632/3 Sto...as Right Reason](https://www.academia.edu/43419632/3_Sto...as_Right_Reason)

Quote

In De Re Publica [On the Commonwealth] 3.33, on behalf of the Stoic Laelius, Cicero left for posterity an unsurpassed definition of natural law:

True law (lex) is Right Reason (recta ratio) in agreement with nature (naturae congruens); ... it summons to duty by its command, and averts from wrongdoing by its prohibitions. ... We cannot be freed from its obligations by senate or by people, and we need not look outside ourselves for an expounder or interpreter of it. And there will not be different laws at Rome and at Athens, or different laws now and in future, but one eternal and unchangeable law will be one master and ruler, that is, God, over us all, for he is the author of this law, its promulgator, and its enforcing judge. Whoever is

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2261-episode-ninety-eight-the-epicurean-view-of-justice-part-one/?postID=14823#post14823>

disobedient is fleeing from himself and denying his human nature, and by reason of this very fact he will suffer the worst penalties, even if he escapes what is commonly considered punishment.