

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

Post by “Kalosyni” of January 1, 2022 at 11:28 AM

[Quote from Matt](#)

Although it is a generally good practice to do no harm, there is no universal imperative to do so. This doesn't mean everyone needs to be hostile to everyone, but nature tells us that violence is a very significant part of reality. We may not wish to do harm, however humankind follows no unified ideology and the evidence explicitly shows that humans harm each other every moment of the day. The Epicurean has to be ready for anything to preserve the individual's freedom and pursuit of pleasure...and that may mean a show of force or even as a last resort a violent interaction.

If this is what this online forum advocates and believes then my feeling of a pleasant and safe stay here might have just ended. For I won't be able to trust anyone and that will create fear and trouble in my mind (and very likely also for others).

So this brings me back around to the role of tranquility within Epicureanism, and which we do find evidence of its importance in the Principle Doctrines.

From the materialist understanding of the universe, there is no absolute virtue since there are no gods who mandate this for us. However, we do have a sense of virtue based on the pleasure-pain principle, and when one takes this line of thinking to its conclusion we come to: "It feels good to be with people who will not harm me" and "It feels good to me to give the gift of non-harming to others". And "I enjoy a certain level of safety and tranquility in my environment and in my internal mental experience".

So now I have come around from an early stance of questioning tranquility... and so now I must embrace tranquility and say:

There is no adequate pleasure without adequate tranquility. And we can only hope to find this in the safety and peace of the Epicurean Garden. AND it seems now also that it must be a mutually agreed upon "contract".

I welcome any comments 😊