

# **Social feelings/actions to not-friends(or strangers, animals) (Philantropy /compassion /sympathy / kindness / charity /)**

**Post by "Cassius" of May 17, 2023 at 6:43 AM**

[Quote from Matteng](#)

Do you know how the Epicurean attitude is for a general Philantropy/compassion /sympathy or let's say "social feelings".

I am sure that many here will have good comments on this. The first thing that would come to my mind in laying the ground work for the discussion, however, would be to suggest that this question stated this way is essentially another form of the "virtue" question that is discussed at great length in the Epicurean texts. The qualities you are suggesting (and even friendship is included in this) are tested by the practical question of whether they in fact (and not in theory) lead to a more pleasant life for the individual who is asking the question. Maybe the best example of this is in the [Torquatus narrative](#) starting at least around line 32.

As in the Vatican Saying, our desire for the qualities you mention are subject to the same test: [VS71](#). :Every desire must be confronted by this question: What will happen to me if the object of my desire is accomplished, and what if it is not?"

Now having said that, a very good case can be made in many instances for pleasure arising from pursuing the objectives you list, but if you cross the line into thinking that these objectives are worthy "in themselves" apart from the actual results they produce, then I would suggest Epicurus would say that analysis goes too far astray from the goal of real people pursuing pleasure in their own lives and - as with any other deviation from "pleasure" as the goal - would end up with results that undermine that goal.

Now with that as a fundamental you could go forward in many ways to show that in particular situations with particular people, the goals you mention can be in many ways pleasure-enhancing.