

# Aristotle's Virtue as Goal compared to Epicurus' Pleasure as Goal

Post by "Cassius" of July 13, 2023 at 7:30 AM

## [Quote from Onenski](#)

That's why it seems circular: you can only become just (as a character trait) by acting justly continuously (so that you get the habit to be just). In this way, it's established the way we have to take in order to be virtuous.

And that's a good way of stating the question, because it's not really so easy to see whether it IS circular or whether it just LOOKS circular. I don't personally see how it avoids being circular until you can break out to a clear position on what virtue "is" in the first place, and I don't see how you can do that without pointing to some external standard. I've never been able to figure out what Aristotle really points to other than "look at what other people do." On the other hand, looking to the pleasure or pain that is the result of an action does seem like something more tangible.