

Book: "Theory and Practice in Epicurean Political Philosophy" by Javier Aoiz & Marcelo Boeri

Post by "Eikadistes" of September 9, 2024 at 6:25 PM

[Quote from Matteng](#)

Would someone who follows Epicurus' teachings commit injustices if they were never seen?

For sure, Epicurus warns against violating a mutual agreement. *Though*, when faced with unethical laws, living in violation of the law is inevitable, and we would expect sage to respond to such a situation with consideration: "**Will the wise man do things that the laws forbid, knowing that he will not be found out? A simple answer is not easy to find.**" (Usener fragment 18).

I am thinking, *for example*, of abolitionists assisting runaway slaves.

[Quote from Matteng](#)

It is often said that injustice towards others is more likely to arise from non-necessary needs, which the Epicurean sage does not have.

But what about natural/necessary needs? But this also includes ataraxia. This is also important to the Stoics. Needs for the body or "life" are less important to Stoics than to Epicureans.

Epicurus sees friendship as a natural and necessary need; a violation of friendship will prevent a social need from being satisfied, so injustice towards others is incompatible with the pleasant life.

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

It is not possible to live joyously without also living wisely and beautifully and rightly, nor to live wisely and beautifully and rightly without living joyously; and whoever lacks this cannot live joyously.