

What is Virtue and what aspects of Virtue does an Epicurean cultivate?

Post by “Matteng” of August 26, 2025 at 5:13 AM

To get a better understanding of Virtues it could help to have a look at the "sub-virtues" to see more aspects of them. In my opinion the core of them all is prudence (phronesis) and friendship (philia) so the rational and social aspect for a good or better life which sometimes makes it necessary to endure pain for greater pleasure (hedonic calculus for example, enduring pain for others...).

I would also like to point out that the following overview is a purely human classification and is not set in stone; there are/were other classifications/aspects in antiquity. Another caveat is that these classifications were often made by philosophers for whom virtue represented the highest good (so be careful when it is about Pleasure or Piety for Gods) .

Wisdom - Φρόνησις (Phronēsis)

Good sense - εὐβουλία (euboulia)
Good calculation - εὐλογιστία (eulogistia)
Quick-wittedness - ἀγχίνοια (anchinoia)
Discretion - σύνεσις (synesis)
Resourcefulness - εὐμηχανία (eumēchania)

Justice - Δικαιοσύνη (Dikaïosynē)

Piety - ὁσιότης (hosiotēs)
Honesty / Truthfulness - ἀλήθεια (alētheia)
Equity / Fairness - ἰσότης (isotēs)
Fair dealing / Non-greed - ἀνεξικακία (anexikakia, sometimes glossed as forbearance)

Courage - Ἄνδρεία (Andreia)

Endurance - καρτερία (karteria)
Confidence - θαρραλεότης (tharraleotēs)
High-mindedness / Magnanimity - μεγαλοψυχία (megalopsychia)
Cheerfulness - εὐθυμία (euthymia)
Industriousness / Hard work - φιλοπονία (philoponia)

Temperance - Σωφροσύνη (Sōphrosynē)

Good discipline - εὐταξία (eutaxia)

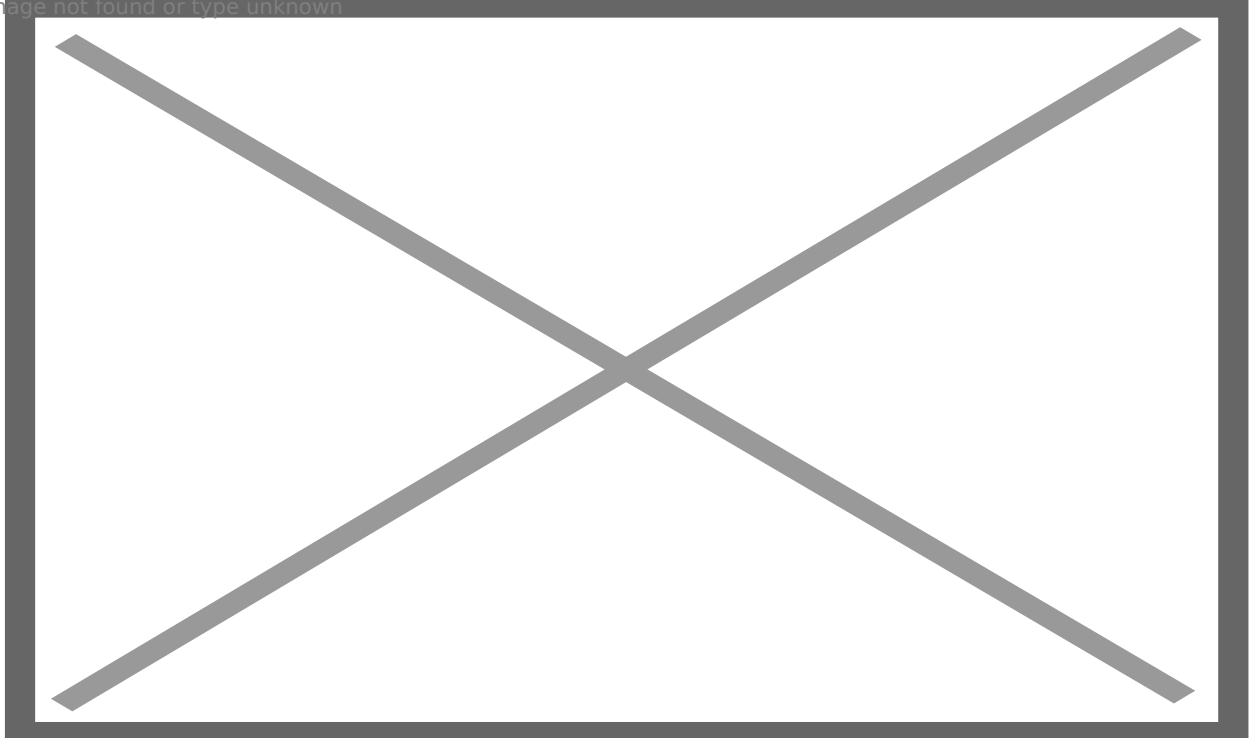
Seemliness / Decorum - κόσμιος (kosmios)

Modesty - αἰδώς (aidōs)

Self-control - ἐγκράτεια (enkrateia)

Here is a similiar classification/explanation:

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[Forty-Four Stoic Virtues: Pseudo-Andronicus' On Passions, and Stoic Life by Matthew Sharpe](#)

Introduction It is well-known that the Stoics hold there to be four cardinal virtues: courage (andreia), justice (dikaiosunê), moderation (sôphrosunê), and...

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