

# Episode 301 - TD29 - Epicurus And The Question Of Ends Justifying Means

**Post by "Cassius" of October 3, 2025 at 5:19 PM**

As I get this episode finalized I realize that as usual I didn't think fast enough to make a couple of points that need to go along with this topic.

First, as Joshua noted we didn't address Cicero's criticism of associating evil with pain, so we'll address that next week. (Maybe we can spend another week on section 20!)

Second, Joshua mentioned the great difficulty of judging the sincerity and motivation of people who claim to have the same goal but are advocating for very different courses of action. Had I been thinking quickly I would have gone further into that topic, because very frequently both sides of an issue do in fact have what we would consider to be high-minded motivations. There's often no real basis for considering "good faith" to be the test that will allow us to choose between two very different courses of action. As the old saying goes, "the road to hell is paved with good intentions."

What we need to expand on is that in addition to looking at "intention" and "good faith," what Epicurus teaches us to do is to be insightful in calculating the actual results of two courses of action. And that's a question of wisdom and prudence that goes far beyond whether someone has "good intentions" in advocating for a point of view.

So we'll come back to that point next week too!