

Guilty conscience in Epicurean justice.

Post by “wbernys” of January 8, 2026 at 2:34 AM

Epicurus was a very forward thinker in his analysis on the virtue of justice being beneficial mainly for the mind because you don't have to deal with the constant anxiety of getting caught and a wise person would have no need of injustice as seen in PD 1, 17, 34, and 35, instead of some absolute golden rule out there.

But did he or other Epicurean ever address the more "guilt-driven" aspects of being moral (murders regret of killing) and would he (and others in this thread) approve of it as Epicurean, it is a noticeable absence from their discussion on justice and was wondering if the perhaps downplayed it because "guilt-driven" morality was mostly framed in a religious context like with Stoic and Platonist talk of violating divine reason and "feeling of guilt" not being universal enough for him (obviously psychopaths and masochists exist). Or perhaps I've missed it. Interested for any unconsted evidence of "guilty conscience" playing a role in Epicurean justice.

Interested for folks like [Cassius](#) and [Don](#) to give their takes on this.