

Guilty conscience in Epicurean justice.

Post by “wbernys” of January 8, 2026 at 1:49 PM

[Quote from Martin](#)

From an Epicurean perspective, a guilty conscience may be considered a preconception if it has arisen from socialization in one's group and not from religious indoctrination. Such a preconception may be more efficient than fear of punishment.

Can you elaborate more on this? Is the preconception (I prefer basic grasp from Inwood and Gerson) something like "I naturally care about the people I am socializing with". I recall Torquatus mentioning some Epicureans who took the view that friendship comes from familiarity and when why we die for them, is your view similar to that, we have a preconception of naturally caring about people we socialize with?