

What would Epicurus have thought of going to the moon?

Post by "Cassius" of April 19, 2026 at 3:15 PM

[Quote from ReiWolfWoman](#)

You have all collectively answered this question quite in depth and contemplatively. Would he also consider the financial cost to the government a wise use of its money? Does that depend on the possibility for that money to actually bring Epicurean pleasure to other citizens and people? Or would it's probable use for something else make space travel more beneficial?

As Joshua indicated the question of what an Epicurean would consider is a wide one. There is no "universal Epicurean" who would follow a single analysis, and when you extrapolate out to a government and taxation and use of tax dollars you're incorporating huge numbers of contextual presumptions.

Probably the presumption that's driving the question is the consideration of "other people" and what is of benefit to them.

Here the conversation usually turns to the general concensus that Epicurean philosophy is not Benthamite Utilitarianism. The idea that there is a "greatest good for the greatest number" might be something an individual Epicurean would choose to adopt, but it's not something that Epicurus discusses as called for by his philosophy.

Epicurus reasons from a point of view of pleasure of the individual, and to the individual's friends because the friends are of value to the individual. How far out that circle of concern extends is going to be contextual. Clearly it can be very wide - Diogenes of Oinoanda specifically mentions strangers and future citizens - but I would say that Epicurus would emphasize the contextuality of it all, as there is no universal duty to humanity in general as an abstraction. Epicurus deals with real people in real situations and categorial imperatives or idealism separated from reality is very far from the way he looks at things.