

Should Epicurus be viewed as a pure consequentialist, virtue ethicist, or both?

Post by "Cassius" of May 8, 2026 at 9:14 AM

Thanks Don! U512 seems to be the key - with the problem of finding it being that Usener uses "honorable" and "excellence" and "noble." That makes it harder to find when I key on "beautiful," but for purposes of this particular conversation these wordings are even more directly on point.

U512

Aetius, *Doxography*, XII p. 547A: And in his work *On the End-Goal*, he says again: "{=U70 }" And in other passages, he says "I spit upon the honorable and those who vainly admire it, whenever it produces no pleasure."

Plutarch, *Against Colotes*, 30, p. 1124E: ... and when men take for sages those who "spit on excellence, unless pleasure attends it." [c.f. 1124E @ U368]

Plutarch, *Is "Live Unknown" a Wise Precept?*, 4, p. 1129B: ... to live together with Leontium and "spit on noble action," and place the good in the "flesh" and in "titillations."