

# Have PD35 and Vatican Saying 7 been straw-manned?

Post by "Bryan" of May 26, 2026 at 3:42 PM

Possessing power is clearly harmful to the extent that it brings increased stress and dangers. However, possessing power is clearly beneficial to the extent that it can be used to provide security and stability.

KΔ 7: "Some people want to become respected and popular, thinking to preserve for themselves stability from people in this way. If the life of those like this is stable: then they fully acquire the good of nature. However, if it is not stable, then they do not possess that which they craved from the beginning according to what is naturally compatible to them."

KΔ 14: "...stability from people is produced to some extent by a resistant force and resourcefulness..."

Many people like the idea that the powerful person who harms other people will inevitably come to a bad end.... if not in this life, then at least in the next. But, very often, powerful people are convinced they are living "prudently and correctly and justly" in relation to their group -- and many are able to live a stable and pleasurable life even if there is a trail of victims (from a different group) behind them.

While it is true that "What is just by nature exists as that which is of mutual interest among what mutually benefits in not harming each other and not being harmed. (KΔ 31)" Epicurus is clear that this justice is not universally applicable:

KΔ 32 "As many among the living beings as do not have the ability to make mutual agreements for themselves (those regarding not harming one another and not being harmed) regarding these things, in no way are they just or unjust, and likewise also as many among the ethnicities as do not have the ability or do not want to make mutual agreements for themselves regarding not harming and not being harmed."