

# Mako's Epicurean Outline

**Post by "Mako" of January 20, 2018 at 2:46 PM**

Cassius, thank you very much for your input! It is reassuring to hear that I am starting off on the right foot. I will save the article for reading this weekend and do some research on the other source you mentioned. 😊

Your vision of pleasure and the vessel makes great sense to me. If I am recalling rightly, Epicurus did say that the things that shape each of our happy lives are the things we reason bring us pleasure when we are sober and not troubled. In fact, your Full Cup model resonates even more with this thought. Nature has made pleasure simple by giving a "fluid" nature. Pleasure may vary in its shape and form, but fits in the vessel just the same.

The justice topic is one of the things that I am hesitant to mention to my peers who ask about Epicureanism, especially given that in some it immediately summons to mind some of the controversial and horrible images that you mentioned. I've been called "uncaring" and "ignorant" because I choose not to join the chorus of voices damning a particular atrocity, even when it occurs outside my realm of life.

We are to become more self-reliant and secure protection from others, knowing that our true friends will support us *if* we need it - therefore, why should I take a stance on a matter that cannot impact my life if it will only make me enemies and pain from having to defend a position? It is much easier, and in my opinion in line with Nature's true justice, to concern myself with what *can* harm me, determine if I can avoid it/make a contract with it, and entirely remove the possibility of fear from uncertainty. The "dark side" of this might be a sort of Epicurean vigilantism, especially if the philosophy were less altruistically hedonistic and more self-centered. A scary thought!