

## Refutation of the paradox of Epicurus as invoked by Epictetus

© Copyright 2018 by Colin James III All rights reserved.

We evaluate the captioned by assuming the apparatus and method of Meth8/VL4. The designated proof value is  $\mathbb{T}$ , and  $\mathbb{F}$  is contradiction. The 16-valued result table is row-major and horizontal.

From: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epicurus#Pleasure\\_as\\_absence\\_of\\_suffering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epicurus#Pleasure_as_absence_of_suffering)

The "Epicurean paradox" or "Riddle of Epicurus" is a version of the problem of evil.

LET  $p$   $q$   $r$   $s$ : God removes; God is willing; God is envious; God is feeble.

God wishes to take away evils [of envy and feebleness], and is unable; (1.1.1)

$q \& \sim p$  ; (1.1.2)

or He is able, and is unwilling; (1.2.1)

$p \& \sim q$  ; (1.2.2)

or He is neither willing nor able, (1.3.1)

$\sim q \& \sim p$  ; (1.3.2)

or He is both willing and able. (1.4.1)

$q \& p$  ; (1.4.2)

If He is willing and is unable, He is feeble, which is not in accordance with the character of God; (2.1)

$(q \& \sim p) > s$  ; (2.2)

if He is able and unwilling, He is envious, which is equally at variance with God; (3.1)

$(p \& \sim q) > r$  ; (3.2)

if He is neither willing nor able, He is both envious and feeble, and therefore not God; (4.1)

$(\sim q \& \sim p) > (r \& s)$  ; (4.2)

if He is both willing and able, [He is not envious and not feeble] which alone is suitable to God, (5.1)

$(q \& p) > (\sim r \& \sim s)$  ; (5.2)

if Eq. 5.1, from what source then are evils or why does He not remove them? (6.1)

$((q \& p) > (\sim r \& \sim s)) > (((r \& s) > \sim(p=p)) + \sim p)$  ; (6.2)

Eq. 2.1 or Eq.3.1 or Eq. 4.1 or Eq 5.1 (7.1)

$(((((q \& \sim p) > s) + ((p \& \sim q) > r)) + ((\sim q \& \sim p) > (r \& s))) + (((q \& p) > (\sim r \& \sim s)) > (((r \& s) > \sim(p=p)) + \sim p)))$  ;  $\mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T} \mathbb{T}$  (7.2)

Eq. 7.2 as rendered is tautologous. This means that the paradox of Epicurus as invoked by Epictetus is refuted as a contradiction, and is confirmed as a theorem and not as a paradox.