

# **Epicureanism as the spiritual essence or 'religion' of an entire community**

**Post by “Peter Konstans” of October 8, 2023 at 11:47 AM**

In the first century BC the forces of destruction (emanating from the domestic political mistakes of the previous century) were already working in full swing and the situation was no longer salvageable for the Roman Republic. In such a titanic implosion it was impossible for anyone to stand by the wayside and watch. All Epicureans could do at this point is pick the side that suited their personal interests best. And the side that suited the interests of the little guys best was clearly the populist camp. So I agree with you that engaging in violence is not always avoidable for Epicureans and in certain irreversible historical situations engaging in it is the only possible option left for a more pleasant future. Israeli military historian Martin Van Creveld has even cited examples convincingly demonstrating that in periods of war and instability hedonism of all sorts actually tends to flourish and bonds of friendship between people grow stronger and more sensuous. He notes how after the war period people tend to recall the memories of those times with fondness and longing.