

# Epicurean Views On Hierarchy In Social Structures

Post by "DavidN" of March 13, 2024 at 1:43 PM

[Quote from Peter Konstans](#)

[Quote from DavidN](#)

[Quote from Peter Konstans](#)

I don't think centralized hierarchical structures are compatible with Epicureanism. Self-sufficiency, being an epicurean virtue, is increasingly stifled the more centralized and top heavy power structures becomes. I also don't agree with your analysis of the decline of epicureanism in late antiquity, from what I've read most scholars think that in the face of environmental and societal changes the appeal of Epicureanism to the general populis declined.

What was so special about the social and environmental conditions in the centuries when Epicureanism was popular as opposed to those when it declined? Nothing much really. It was the same old agrarian society. In any case Christianity and Islam have survived plenty of devastating social shifts and the same should be demanded of any successful creed aiming at the hearts of as many people as possible.

What was special, a decline into the dark ages. There were huge environmental and social upheavals. A person could make a living studying them as a system. From volcanic activity and tectonic shifts, to deforestation and desertification. Especially poignant was Romes rate of desertification leading to widespread famine. <https://www.hwalibrary.com/cgi-bin/get/hw...folD=1382439579> The degradational power of imperialism at it's finest. The Empire was not just the same old period of agrarianism, it was in fact quite the opposite. If anything, seen as a whole it is a great example of the destructive powers of unnecessary and unnatural desires.