

# Contemplative Isolation and Constructive Sociability in the Epicurean Tradition

Post by “Don” of October 12, 2021 at 5:04 AM

"Roman readers seem to have discussed with fervor Cicero's work *On the Commonwealth* (*De Re Publica*), which strongly advocated the importance of political commitment as an altruistic, law-abiding service and warned against the risks of contemplative isolation.<sup>2</sup> Cicero's main target in the first polemical part of *On the Commonwealth* were the Epicureans, who - as Cicero himself says elsewhere - took Italy by storm and founded several communities of wisdom-practitioners in imitation of Epicurus' Athenian garden."

I was unaware of this work by Cicero. Maybe worth finding, and it may be worth finding out if this was written pre- or post-de Finibus. So, Cicero really didn't like Epicureanism even with Epicurean friends.