

# Did Epicurus Advise Marriage or Not? Diogenes Laertius Text Difficulty

Post by “Don” of January 28, 2024 at 3:28 PM

## [Quote from Pacatus](#)

Epicurus pushed the edges of such circumscription within the Garden (it seems to me)

Fully agree! Letting women and slaves study philosophy??!! Clutch my pearls! 🤪

However, marriages still needed to be sanctioned by the state and the culture to be legal and to allow for inheritance and the other legal and social aspects to be legitimate.

## Quote

### Sexual Relationships

The wise one will not establish a sexual relationship in a way that is against the law or forbidden by custom. Epicureans generally think that the sage will never succumb to lustful desire or be overwhelmed by sexual passions. According to the school, sexual passion is not sent by any supernatural force. They say that having sex like animals never did anyone any good, and people should be content if it does no harm. Epicurus also said that the wise one will not marry nor raise a family (and talked about the pains involved with that life); however, under certain circumstances, the wise one will forsake these rules and decide to marry. (118, 119)

## [Epicurean Sage](#)

My goal in this translation of Diogenes Laertius's Lives of Eminent Philosophers, Book X.117-121, was to be as literal as possible to preserve the flavor of...

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