

# "Democracy, the worst form of government."

Post by "Eikadistes" of June 27, 2024 at 10:19 AM

Halfway through Book VII of Philodemus' *On Rhetoric*, I came across the following, surprising quotation:

"Rhetors prefer to live in a **democracy, the worst form of government.**"

I am well aware of Plato's authoritarian politics ... Philodemus seems to identify "The People" with "a vicious mob".

**Granted, this is taken out of context, as are many of Philodemus' fragments.**

Still, it makes me wonder more about Philodemus' political positions, particularly his sympathy toward Julius Caesar. He has a **lot** to say about civic engagement in *On Rhetoric*.