

# Discussion of the Society of Epicurus' 20 Tenets of 12/21/19

**Post by "Cassius" of December 23, 2019 at 3:31 PM**

As we talk about this I would be interested in more background about the purpose of the statement.

My key issue has always been knowing the framework of what is going on.

For example, this forum website has rules for posting that describe what is within limits (relating to the study of Epicurus) and off limits (current day divisive politics) but the website as a whole has no larger goal than promoting the study of Epicurus, and people can participate here so long as they stay within the rules, and they know (or should know) that there is nothing implied beyond that

In terms of the Society of Epicurus or any organization that appears to have a "membership" character, then there is implicit or explicit agreement that members agree to the terms of membership.

Are these 20 Tenets intended to serve that function? If so, then their formulation implies that they were prepared in a way that is endorsed by the group as a whole.

Some groups try to be democracies or representative republics in which officers are elected to set such terms. Or a group can have oligarchy or a dictatorship. I don't think Epicurus or his philosophy rules out any of those forms in proper situations, but as an individual we all have preferences about what we participate in.

If this is a statement prepared by Hiram as his own personal viewpoint he has no obligation to any of us to even consider modifying any part of it. In that case we all agree or disagree as individuals and wish each other well.

The trick in any organized activity involves being clear with others what they are getting into by that group activity. So it's really presumptuous to say more than "I agree" or "I disagree" when there is no request or mechanism or idea that anything is open to change.

I am personally perfectly good with any decisions Hiram makes because the Society of Epicurus is his project. I have just always wanted to make clear where the lines are drawn so that no one misunderstands, and that's the reason I repeat that here.

So with that as additional background I will make more comments on individual issues without implying that the list itself should be changed, as I was not a part of formulating it or any kind of officer of the Society of Epicurus.