

Tradition and Metaphors

Group 1: Explain the Marian oak tree (*Leg. 1*).

Group 2: Explain the island Fibrenus (*Leg. 2*).

What do these have to do with Plato?

What do these have to do with the rest of Cicero's *Laws*?

Participants and Characters

Who are the three speakers?

To what sect does T. Pomponius Atticus belong?
What do they believe about the gods?

Who is Numa? Why is he important in the *Laws*?
What was his father's name?

Noble Lie?

On what assumption is all the *Laws* predicated?
Is it true, or is it a lie, or is it a noble lie?

Do Atticus and the Epicureans
normally accept that assumption?
Does he accept it in the *Laws*?

Why is Atticus present in this dialogue?

Prophecy (Augury)

Does the possibility of a noble lie change how you read 2.30–33 (pp. 134–35)?

What about that next response with an asterisk, “I absolutely agree?”

Definitions

What do the following mean, and are any of them predicated on the existence/active involvement of God(s)?

Justice

Reason

Law

Natural

Civil Law

Does law proceed from justice
or justice from law?

Which is the ideal form,
and which the physical reality?

What is nature? What convention?
Which laws are natural?

The Greek and Latin words for law
come from different verbs.

What does law really mean, and which is better?

νέμειν (to distribute) → νόμος (law)

legere (to choose) → *lex* (law)

Similarities and Differences

To what extent are all people similar?

What makes people different?

Should difference be eliminated?

Can it be eliminated?

Friendship

What is friendship?

How does friendship differ from the state?

Why aren't all men friends?

Migration

What does Cicero say about migration at the beginning of *Leg. 2*?

Should the migrant love his native land or adoptive land?

What did Cicero say about cosmopolitanism a few pages ago at the end of *Leg. 1*?

Is there an inconsistency here?

Magistrates

What is a magistrate?

Why do they come second in the state,
after the priests and augurs?

Which magistrates exist, and what do they do?

Why are there tribunes?

How does freedom differ from authority (3.24–25)?

Freedom, Authority, and the Common People

How much power should the people have?

What alternatives are there to allowing them power?

How can bribery be curbed?