

## *Religio and superstitio*

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1. Religiosi dicuntur, qui faciendarum praetermittendarumque rerum divinarum secundum morem civitatis dilectum habent, nec se superstitionibus implicant.

Festus 366 Lindsay

*Religiosi* is the word for those people who, following the custom of the city, are very attentive to the rituals that should be performed and to those that should be omitted, but do not get involved in superstitions.

2. Audistis Theodorum et Numenium et Nicasionem, legatos Hennensis, publice dicere sese a suis civibus haec habere mandata, ut ad Verrem adirent et eum simulacrum Cereris et Victoriae reposerent; id si impetrassent, tum ut morem veterem Hennensium conservarent, publice in eum, tametsi vexasset Siciliam, tamen, quoniam haec a maioribus instituta accepissent, testimonium ne quod dicerent; sin autem ea non reddidisset, tum ut in iudicio adessent, tum ut de eius iniuriis iudices docerent, sed maxime de religione quererentur. Quas illorum querimonias nolite, per deos immortalis, aspernari, nolite contemnere ac negligere, iudices! Aguntur iniuriae sociorum, agitur vis legum, agitur existimatio veritasque iudiciorum. Quae sunt omnia permagna, verum illud maximum: tanta religione obstricta tota provincia est, tanta superstitio ex istius facto mentis omnium Siculorum occupavit ut quaecumque accidant publice privatimque incommoda propter eam causam sceleris istius evenire videantur.

Cicero 2 *Verrine* 4. 113.

You have heard Theodorus and Numenius and Nicasio, the ambassadors from Enna, declare publicly that they had this commission from their fellow-citizens, to go to Verres, and to ask him for the return of the statues of Ceres and of Victory. If they had obtained it, then they were to follow the ancient customs of Enna, not to give any public testimony against him, even though he had oppressed Sicily, since these were the practices that they had inherited from their ancestors. But if he did not return them, then they were to go before the tribunal, inform the judges of the injuries they had received, but, far above all things, to complain of the insults to their *religio*. I beg you, judges, in the name of the immortal gods, do not despise, do not scorn or neglect their complaints. The issues at stake are the injuries done to our allies, the authority of the laws and the reputation and integrity of our courts of justice. All these are weighty matters, but here is the weightiest of them all: the whole province is fettered by so great a *religio*, so great a *superstitio* has seized the minds of all the Sicilians, that whatever public or private disasters happen to them, they seem to be happening as a result of this fellow's criminality.

3. Ea tametsi multis istius et variis iniuriis acciderunt, tamen haec una causa in opinione Siculorum plurimum valet, quod Cerere violata omnis cultus fructusque Cereris in iis locis interisse arbitrantur. Medemini religioni sociorum, iudices, conservate vestram; neque enim haec externa vobis est

