

Happy Thanksgiving Thread

Post by “Don” of November 23, 2022 at 5:36 PM

It seems to me that Thanksgiving is the most Epicurean of modern holidays with its emphasis (at least nominally) on gratitude.

This led me to think about how other holidays could be reinterpreted (at least in one's mind and motivation) in an Epicurean context:

- Easter - This is an easy one. Just take it back to its pagan roots as a celebration of Spring, new life, renewed fertility of the Earth. Read the hymn to Venus by Lucretius on the day.
- Halloween - This one's easy, too, in tying it to El Dia de Los Muertos that comes the day after. This is a chance to remember those who have passed, to relive pleasurable memories of those who have died.
- Christmas - This one's tougher. The Christian context is the birth of Christ, the "bringer of light to the world." Well, we already have Epicurus's birthday in Jan/Feb to celebrate the birth of the founder. So, what to do with Christmas? There's gift giving. Maybe something to do with that?

Anyway, consider this an invitation to offer ideas. Include other holidays. We can always move it to a new thread if it elicits responses 😊