

Epicurus' Birthday 2023 - (The Most Comprehensive Picture Yet!)

Post by “Eikadistes” of November 23, 2022 at 8:13 PM

I am of the understanding that Epicurus' birthday was January 11-12th 341 BCE. Per Diogenes Laërtius, Epicurus was born “in the **third year of the 109th Olympiad** [...] on the **seventh day** of the month of **Gamelion**”. The third year of the 109th Olympiad began on July 11-12th of 342 BCE. The seventh day of the month of Gamelion is 184 days after the beginning of the third year of the 109th Olympiad; so, 184 days from July 11-12th is January 11-12th.

3rd year		
<i>Begins -342-07-11/12</i>		
<u>Hekatombaion</u> Ἑκατομβαιῶν 30	<u>Metageitnion</u> Μεταγειτνίων 30	<u>Boedromion</u> Βοηδρομιῶν 29
<u>Puanepsion</u> Πυανειῶν 30	<u>Maimakterion</u> Μαίμακτηριῶν 29	<u>Poseideon</u> Ποσειδεῶν 29
<u>Gamelion</u> Γαμηλιῶν 30	<u>Anthesterion</u> Ἄνθεστηριῶν 29	<u>Elaphebolion</u> Ἐλαφηβολιῶν 30
<u>Mounikhion</u> Μουσικιῶν 29	<u>Thargelion</u> Θαργηλιῶν 30	<u>Skirophorion</u> Σκιροφοριῶν 30

That still begs the question of should we celebrate Epicurus birthdate...

1. On the anniversary of his birthdate (per Diogenes) – *Gamelion 7* – **January 11/12th?**
2. On its *customary* celebration (per his Last Will) – *Gamelion 10* – **January 14/15th?**
3. On the modern Eikas-aligned birthday custom – **January 20?**
4. On the ancient Eikas-aligned birthday custom – *Gamelion 20* – **January 24/25th?**

I submit that Epicurus was born on January 11-12th, and that **we were recommended by Epicurus to continue a customary celebration of his birth on January 14-15th**. Though, it seems that later followers may have merged the celebration with Eikas, in which case, January 24-25th (*ancient*) or January 20th (*modern*) might be appropriate.

My vote is January 14-15th per Epicurus pointing to Gamelion 10 in his will.