

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

Post by “Eikadistes” of November 24, 2022 at 9:30 AM

That's an excellent find, [Don](#) that I think definitely explains the discrepancy.

One thing I note is that the months of the ancient Greek Calendar had rotating numbers of days, so any fixed "x of Gamelion" date will always translate as a different date on the Julian calendar depending on your starting point. Since, as Don just demonstrated, Epicurus was, in fact, attesting to the Eikas-aligned celebration of his birthday on "the [earlier] tenth" it would be appropriate to celebrate it in correspondence with our own Eikas-day celebrations.

At the same time, we *could* approach this holiday as a "moving feast" like the Christian celebration Easter which can fall anywhere from March 22 and April 25 depending on the year and the movements of the moon. Celebrating Epicurus' birthday on the "proper", "moving" date could be a fun, educational exercise we can celebrate every year.

2nd year		
<i>Begins 2022-06-29/30</i>		
Hekatombaion Ἑκατομβαιῶν 30	Metageitnion Μεταγειτηνῶν 30	Boedromion Βοηδρομιῶν 29
Puanepsion Πυανεψιών 30	Maimakterion Μαιμακτηριῶν 29	Poseideon Ποσειδεῶν 30
Poseideon-2 Ποσειδεῶν β' 29	Gamelion Γαμηλιῶν 29	Anthesterion Ἀνθεστηριῶν 30
Elaphebolion Ἐλαφηβολιῶν 29	Mounakhion Μουνυχιῶν 30	Thargelion Θαργηλιῶν 29
Skirophorion Σκιροφοριῶν 30		

Based on the Calendar Don provided (*above*), I believe we are in the 2nd year of the 700th Olympiad, which started on June 29-30th 2022. Today, November 24th 2022 corresponds with the 148th day of the ancient Greek year, meaning "today" is the final day of Maimakterion. This year also seems to have a second month of Poseideon before Gamelion, so the "early 10th of Gamelion" (or Gamelion 20) falls 227 days after June 29-30th is **February 11-12th 2023**.

1st year		
<i>Begins 2021-07-10/11</i>		
Hekatombaion Ἑκατομβαιῶν 30	Metageitnion Μεταγειτνίων 29	Boedromion Βοηδρομιῶν 30
Puanepsion Πυανειῶν 29	Maimakterion Μαιμακτηριῶν 30	Poseideon Ποσειδεῶν 29
Gamelion Γαμηλιῶν 29	Anthesterion Ἄνθεστηριῶν 30	Elaphebolion Ἐλαφηβολιῶν 30
Mounukhion Μουνυχιῶν 29	Thargelion Θαργηλιῶν 30	Skirophorion Σκιροφοριῶν 29

Last ancient Greek year (the 1st year of the 700th Olympiad; *pictured above*), the first month of Hekatombaion began on July 10-11th 2021, and the “early 10th of Gamelion” (or Gamelion 20) fell 197 days after July 10-11th. So, according to my calculations, last ancient Greek “year”, *Epicurus’ Birthday Eikas* would have fallen on **January 23, 2022**.

3rd year		
<i>Begins 2023-07-18/19</i>		
Hekatombaion Ἑκατομβαιῶν 30	Metageitnion Μεταγειτνίων 29	Boedromion Βοηδρομιῶν 30
Puanepsion Πυανειῶν 30	Maimakterion Μαιμακτηριῶν 29	Poseideon Ποσειδεῶν 30
Gamelion Γαμηλιῶν 29	Anthesterion Ἄνθεστηριῶν 30	Elaphebolion Ἐλαφηβολιῶν 29
Mounukhion Μουνυχιῶν 29	Thargelion Θαργηλιῶν 30	Skirophorion Σκιροφοριῶν 29

In next corresponding ancient Greek year (the 3rd year of the 700th Olympiad; *seen above*), the first month of Hekatombaion begins on July 18-19th 2023, and the “early 10th of Gamelion” (or Gamelion 20) will fall 198 days after July 18-19th. So, next ancient Greek calendar year, *Epicurus’ Birthday Eikas* will fall on **February 1-2nd, 2024**.

So based on my calculations:

Epicurus’ Birthday Eikas **2022**: January 23-24th

Epicurus’ Birthday Eikas **2023**: February 10-11th

Epicurus’ Birthday Eikas **2024**: February 1-2nd

I think it is therefore appropriate to celebrate it on one of two days:

1. **January 20th**, aligned with the modern celebration of the Twentiers
2. A “moving feast” like Easter, which will start *Epicurus’ Birthday Eikas* (as I count) on February 10-11th 2023.

I am partial to celebrating the "moving feast". It provides an opportunity for modern Epicureans to gain a better understanding of the Attic calendar that organized Epicurus' days. It also reinforces our relative *feeling* of their holidays. There is a slightly different *feel* between contemporary cultures that start their "week" on *Monday* instead of *Sunday*. There is a different *feel* to "beginning" a year in Summer instead of mid-Winter. This helps us look at *time* from the perspective of Epicurus and friends. It also provides an opportunity to focus on Epicurus.

Or we could just do the 20th to make it easy. *Easter's moving date always was kind of weird growing up.*