

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

Post by "Don" of November 23, 2022 at 11:12 PM

LOL! Here we go! 😊

Here also is Gassendi's chapter on the birth of Epicurus (Thanks, [Cassius](#) !)

[Gassendi's Epicurus - Part 1 - Life of Epicurus - NewEpicurean](#)

I like the idea of Epicurus being born on 7 Gamelion due to its association with Apollo Epicurus.

In his will, Epicurus's words convey that somehow the "first tenth" of Gamelion was chosen to customarily celebrate his birthday: τὴν εἰθισμένην ἄγεσθαι γενέθλιον ἡμέραν

εἰθισμένην = "accustomed"

τῆ προτέρᾳ δεκάτῃ τοῦ Γαμηλιῶνος (tēi proterai dekatēi tou Gamēliōnos) "for the first tenth of Gamelion"

BUT (and I can't vouch for the authority here but [Joshua](#) pointed this out, too)

[Calendars Old and New](#)

The 1e DMG has a stern admonition on tracking time "YOU CAN NOT HAVE A MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN IF STRICT TIME RECORDS ARE NOT KEPT." Emphasis ...

[alesmiter.blogspot.com](#)

Quote

The first day was the New Moon - Noumenia. Then the first two phases were numbered consecutively from 2nd rising to 10th rising, then 11th to 19th. On the twentieth, the day was called the first tenth. The twenty first was named the last tenth and the numbers decreased from the 9th waning to the last day of the month - Old and New.

But does that mean that Epicurus's Birthday was celebrated \*within\* the first ten days of the month of Gamelion (ie, actually on the 7th) or it was on the "first tenth" or is the 20th of the month called "the first tenth" like that website says???

LSJ gives an interesting definition (one of them) that δέκατος can mean "festival on the tenth day after birth, when the child has a name given it, τὴν δ. θύειν to give a naming-day feast"

[Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, A Greek-English Lexicon, δέκα^τος](#)

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2756-epicurus-birthday-2023-the-most-comprehensive-picture-yet/?postID=20792#post20792>

It definitely appears to me that his actual birthday did not occur on τῆ προτέρᾳ δεκάτῃ τοῦ Γαμηλιῶνος but that it was only celebrated that day by custom. Why else use εἰθισμένην?

Well, unless, his birthday - which did it occur that day?? - was celebrated over the years and it was customary now to throw a party for him \*on\* his birthday. But that εἰθισμένην gives me pause. BUT Epicurus says in his will to go ahead and keep celebrations going on τῆ προτέρᾳ δεκάτῃ τοῦ Γαμηλιῶνος as we've become accustomed to doing. Maybe I am inclining to celebrate it τῆ προτέρᾳ δεκάτῃ τοῦ Γαμηλιῶνος. Hmmm....