

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

Post by "Don" of November 24, 2022 at 7:42 AM

OMG! Okay, I went and looked at the Wikipedia article that I think is the one [Joshua](#) looked at and saw (emphasis added - LOOK at the 20th!!):

Quote

To summarise the days with special names.

- The first day: *noumenia*, or new moon.
- The last day: *henē kai nea*, the "old and the new".
- The 21st day: "the later tenth". The Attic month had three days named "tenth" (equivalent in a straight sequence to the 10th, 20th, and 21st days). These were distinguished as
  - 10th: "the tenth (of the month) waxing"
  - 20th: "the earlier tenth" (i.e. waning)
  - 21st: "the later tenth" (i.e. waning)

This strange juxtapositioning of the two days called the tenth, the earlier and the later, further highlighted the shift into the moon's waning phase.

SO τῆ προτέρᾳ δεκάτῃ τοῦ Γαμηλιῶνος is NOT "the tenth of Gamelion". It's "the 'earlier tenth' of Gamelion" meaning the 20th!! He's saying right there in his will that his birthday was \*customarily\* celebrated on the προτέρᾳ δεκάτῃ "the earlier tenth" - the 20th! - of Gamelion!

**There aren't three dates! There are only two:**

1. Epicurus's actual birthday of 7 Gamelion, sacred to Apollo Epicurus
2. the \*customary\* celebration of his birthday during the regular 20th celebration during the month of his birth.

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

It was right there all the time and it all lines up!

So we could include a celebration of Epicurus's Birthday on the 20th of Gamelion which is Feb 10/11, 2023, or decide \*by custom\* to celebrate it either at the 20 January or 20 February since the 20th in his will was also \*by custom.\* The Jan 20 or Feb 20 would definitely be in the spirit of his will.

So, his will then says to me that his birthday was celebrated only on the "first tenth" or 20th of Gamelion, but the school met every 20th to commemorate both Epicurus and Metrodorus.

Okay, I think I've planted my flag on this hill. 😊