

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

Post by “Don” of November 27, 2022 at 8:44 AM

LOL! Mystery solved to, I think, my satisfaction!

In the short note by D.M. Lewis:

Two Days

Author(s): D. M. Lewis

Source: The Classical Review, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Dec., 1969), pp. 271-272

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Lewis, along with Alpers, is cited in that French paper. Lewis lays out an easy, elegant solution to the multiple dates problem: Gamelion 7, 10, 20.

The Gamelion 7 is from Apollodorus, cited by Diogenes. However, it has been demonstrated that the only month & date birthdays Apollodorus gives are for Socrates and Plato. He gives Epicurus's as occurring in Gamelion with a gloss notation of 7 in the text. Gamelion is simply noted as the ****7th month**** of the Athenian calendar! It's not a date!

The Gamelion 10 date is simply a misinterpretation of πρότερα δέκατη in the Greek as we've been going over and is corroborated by multiple sources now.

Gamelion 20 is Epicurus's Birthday. The "customary" in the Greek is now interpreted by me (and others) to refer to the fact that it was customary to celebrate his birthday annually with certain rites and ceremonies, but that the commemoration of himself and Metrodorus was monthly and used as the regular assembly of his students and members of the school.

All this makes the most sense of all this conflicting data. I'm convinced.

If we want to celebrate the spirit of Epicurus's Will, we should celebrate his birthday on January 20 every year.

If we want a movable feast, we use @Nate 's calculations using the online calendar.