

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

Post by "Don" of November 30, 2022 at 12:51 PM

Let's pare that pertinent sentence down to its bare bones:

Ἐγεννήθη δέ, φησὶν Ἀπολλόδωρος ἐν Χρονικοῖς, κατὰ τὸ τρίτον ἔτος τῆς ἐνάτης καὶ ἑκατοστῆς Ὀλυμπιάδος ἐπὶ Σωσιγένους ἄρχοντος μηνὸς γαμηλιῶνος ἑβδόμη,

Ἐγεννήθη "he was born"

φησὶν Ἀπολλόδωρος ἐν Χρονικοῖς

Apollodorus says in (his) Chronicle

δέ is just the conjunction "and, so, etc."

κατὰ τὸ τρίτον ἔτος τῆς ἐνάτης καὶ ἑκατοστῆς Ὀλυμπιάδος

during the 3rd year (τὸ τρίτον ἔτος) of the 109th Olympiad

ἐπὶ Σωσιγένους ἄρχοντος

in the archonship of Sosigenēs

μηνὸς γαμηλιῶνος ἑβδόμη,

μηνὸς "month" noun singular masculine genitive of μήν

γαμηλιῶνος "Gamelion" noun singular masculine genitive

ἑβδόμη "seventh" adjective singular \*feminine\* dative

ἑβδόμης adjective singular \*feminine\* genitive

ἑβδόμη adjective singular \*feminine\* nominative

Words in ancient Greek have to agree with each other in number, case, and gender. Every permutation I've seen of "seventh" is \*feminine\*. There's no word in that sentence that seems to fit with being modified by a feminine adjective. There has to be a seventh something. However, used by itself it can mean "the seventh one" as in

ἡ ἑβδόμη "the seventh day". So, my theory continues to be "of (the) month of Gamelion, (the) seventh one (i.e., seventh month).