

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

Post by "Elli" of December 12, 2022 at 5:13 AM

"τῆ προτέρᾳ δεκάτῃ τοῦ Γαμηλιῶνος" as it is mentioned by Epicurus in his Will, maybe it does not mean in the 20th day of Gamelion.

Moreover, I read in a book that there are some academic scholars that do not take Meritts' speculations to be entirely correct concerning the ancient Greek chronology/calendar.

The book is here:
<https://books.google.gr/books?id=pmxPEAAAQBAJ&pg=PA55&lpg=PA55&dq=δεκάτη+προτέρα&source=bl&προτέρα&f=false>

But anyway I think that in Epicurus phrase "τῆ προτέρᾳ δεκάτῃ τοῦ Γαμηλιῶνος" in greek adjective "τῆ προτέρᾳ" the subjective noun that is meant is the word (day/ἡμέρα) and if we want to be precise in the translation from ancient to new greek we place always the subjective noun in parentheses. So, this phrase by Epicurus goes like this "τῆ προτέρᾳ (ἡμέρα) δεκάτῃ τοῦ Γαμηλιῶνος" and in english is: [The (day) before of 10th of Gamelion].

E.g. from the historian Thucydides we read [τῆ δὲ προτέρᾳ ἡμέρᾳ ξυνέβη τῆς μάχης ταύτης...]

in english: [The day before this battle it happened...]

Thucydides mentions the word [day/ἡμέρα] next to the word [before/προτέρᾳ].

And "προτέρᾳ" means "The day before" of 10th of Gamelion" so, IMO Epicurus points out one day before of 10th of Gamelion which is the seventh month as it is said correctly OR Epicurus points out that "προτέρᾳ" maybe means "early in this day".

Since it would be wrong - when Epicurus used with so much clarity the greek words and the experiences/facts - to use two different dates with the same meaning.

"ταῖς εἰκάσι" that means the 20th of every month.

Conclusion: IMO Epicurus in his Will uses two different dates and not one and the same as the 20th. Another day (another fact of experience) was the celebration of his **birthday**; and another day (another fact of experience) was the celebration of memory (that usually is connected with a **death**, i.e here of Metrodorus) and that was of every 20th "eikas".

So, IMO in his Will Epicurus points out clearly that when I will die too, you will have the same comemmorate date of remembrance that we were celebrating the death of Metrodorus and this is the 20th of every month.

Concerning "eikas" this also means and something else that is very important, and as Epicurus points out too: So true/real friends we were me (Epicurus) and Mitrodorus to each other and you epicureans will celebrate our commemorate date/remembrance the same date. 😊