

Should Epicureans Celebrate Something Else Instead of Celebrating Halloween?

Post by “Don” of October 18, 2025 at 12:52 PM

I will admit I didn't read this entire thread, but that's never slowed me down before.

Traditions like Halowe'en, Samhain, and El Dia de la Muertos have to do (in part) with remembering the dead and breaking down the barrier between the living and the dead, and making offerings and dedications to those who've passed. I would argue that Epicurus was doing exactly these things (okay, maybe not exactly) in his mandated regular “*funeral offerings* to my father, mother, and brothers” and for Metrodorus. That word used in Greek refers to rites associated with burnt offerings. This aspect of this holiday seems right in line with the Garden: reliving pleasant memories of those who have died.

The trick or treating and parties are just having fun, so if they provide pleasure with a minimum of pain, why not participate in the popular civic festival.