

Should Epicureans Celebrate Something Else Instead of Celebrating Halloween?

Post by “Don” of October 18, 2025 at 6:24 PM

[Genesia \(and Epop\) - Hellenion](#)

A festival dedicated to remembering the dead

Also the funerary offerings Epicurus mandated for parents and brothers is [ἐνάγισμα](#), (enagisma) offering sacrifice to the dead, opp. θύω (to the gods). See

<https://oxfordre.com/classics/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.001.0001/acrefore-9780199381135-e-3058?p=emailA6b40nxTfemOU&d=/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.001.0001/acrefore-9780199381135-e-3058>

Quote

Heroes (ἥρωες, fem. ἡρωῖναι, ἡρώισσαι) were a class of beings worshipped by the Greeks, generally conceived as the powerful dead, and often as forming a class intermediate between gods and men. Hero-cult was apparently unknown to the Mycenaeans; features suggestive of the fully developed phenomenon have been found in 10th-cent. bce contexts, but it is not until the 8th cent. that such cults become widespread and normal. The reasons for its rise have been much debated, but seem likely to be somehow connected with more general social changes at that date. Although Greek authors expect the phrase ‘heroic honours’ to convey something definite, there was in practice much variation in the type of cult given to heroes. At one end of the spectrum it could have a strong resemblance to the offerings given to a dead relative; at the other, it might be barely distinguishable from worship paid to a god. Many late sources suggest features for heroic sacrifice which set it apart from the usual form of sacrifice to a god: holocaust sacrifice on a low altar, using dark animals, performed at night. But often only one of these markers is used in a particular rite, and that rite is not invariably addressed to a hero. *The form of sacrifice known as enagismos (or enagisma), also used in offerings to the dead and probably indicating a form in which the victim is completely destroyed and there is no participatory feast, is found in heroic cult not infrequently, but by no means universally.*

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4771-should-epicureans-celebrate-something-else-instead-of-celebrating-halloween/?postID=37524#post37524>