

Should Epicureans Celebrate Something Else Instead of Celebrating Halloween?

Post by “Adrastus” of October 21, 2025 at 10:30 PM

I am pretty 'bah, humbug' about Halloween as it is celebrated around here and find it deeply unpleasant. I think it trains for painful anticipations and painful attitudes towards death. There is no exchange of wisdom about death or the ancestors. There is no learning about the nature of death, but showing off unrealistic and grotesque forms. We don't even walk from house to house anymore and instead grab candy out of a trunk as if we must streamline everything and the candy is all that matters in what has become a gross, empty holiday. Also the weird classist discourse of going only to the rich and gentrified neighborhoods to get the "good candy" rather than trying to build anything real in our own communities. Probably get arrested if we tried public-facing "tricks". Halloween is everywhere as people leave their jarring skeleton and ghost displays up all year which is I suppose is slightly better than a Neighborhood Association and perfectly maintained lawns. People have little social sense, or people's standards are rock bottom for propriety or we have just come to expect public displays of inward expression just everywhere. Culturally it's just devolving into an extension of the increasingly disturbing and pornographic horror and survival media that is getting created these days that has basically dropped the pretense of being about entertainment, and truly we become the stories we keep telling.

Pagans eat it up, but willingly and religiously taking on the role of archetypal, unredeemable evil forms is not particularly prudent; but hey it's not my thing.