

Hercules the Epicurean (?)

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A line I have always remembered from Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" seems to apply here: "What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value." I think most of us would observe this to be true in life; therefore Epicurus would have seen the same. Is it not obvious that some choices produce pleasures that are much greater than others? And that Epicurus would counsel that we should always choose the greater pleasures over the lesser (keeping in mind the consequences, and that what appears to be greater are in fact over the long term the greater) - Again - "And even as men choose of food not merely and simply the larger portion, but the more pleasant, so the wise seek to enjoy the time which is most pleasant and not merely that which is longest."