

Hercules the Epicurean (?)

Post by "Cassius" of May 4, 2018 at 1:45 PM

[In reference to](#) MK's earlier comments on Hercules, I have posted that picture again of the "Choice of Hercules" with Pegasus waiting at the top of the steep and difficult path. Again, I don't know the full context of the legend, so maybe Pegasus represents "virtue," but in my experience most people think horses are fantastic animals to watch and ride and admire and in so doing their value is PLEASURE. And a winged horse that could fly? Ten times over! So if indeed what waits at the end of the difficult road is indeed some tremendous pleasure that is worth the long and difficult journey, then OF COURSE the Epicurean would choose the harder path over the shorter and direct but lukewarm easy path! And just as Torquatus remarked to Cicero, there's nothing wrong with seeing in the winning of great battles the reward in esteem and appreciation and joy that you will get from, and share with, your fellow-citizens after having fought to protect them.

From the words of Epicurus himself: "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."