

The "Leaping Pig" from Herculaneum (& modern iterations)



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1. Where it was discovered.
2. Where it is now.
3. References to it in articles and journals.
4. Creating a replica via 3d printing.
5. How it ties in with Epicurean iconography.

I would also like a graphic version that can be added to the right-hand panel of graphics, probably right underneath the explanation of the EpicureanFriends logo. Something that looks like a flag, perhaps incorporating a circle or other reference to the sun, so that we have two "in

your face" references at once.

"Oh, you don't like Epicurus' view of how to consider the size of the sun, we'll just say til the end of time: 'The Size of The Sun Is As It Appears!'"

"Oh, you don't like Epicurus' view of Pleasure as the goal of life and you think certain animals are 'unclean,' well then we'll adopt a PIG as our mascot!"

As to "in your face" references:

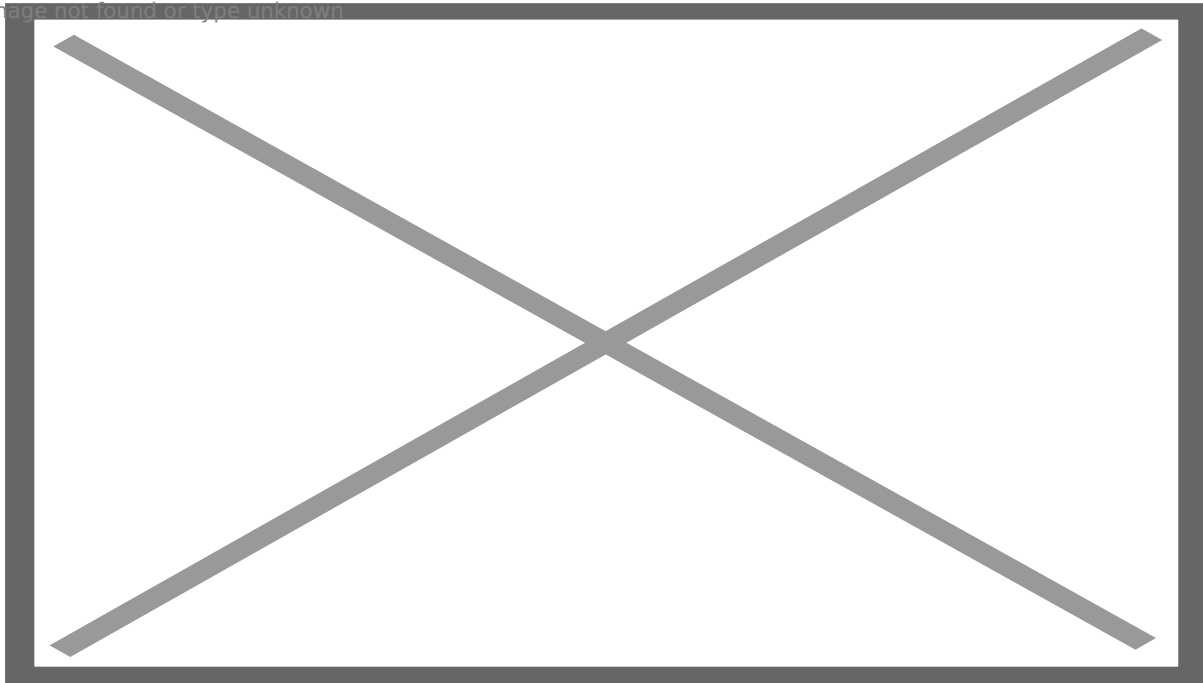
In closing I argue that the size of the sun is an Epicurean shibboleth. In Epicurus, in Lucretius and in Demetrius, we see the same nostrum repeated, with progressive elaborations that do not fully clarify the basic precept. The persistence of Epicureans in this formulation is not so much the result of reflexive dogma or pseudo-intellectual obscurantism as it is a passphrase, a litmus test. Think like an Epicurean, and you will figure out that the sun's appearance and the sun itself are two related but distinct things with two different sizes; that you must keep the infallible data of the senses, tactile as well as visual, in proper perspective when making judgments about your perception; and that the available data is insufficient to estimate the sun's magnitude to an acceptable degree of confidence (compare Barnes: 1989, 36). Think that Epicureans believe the sun's diameter is a foot, that they are absurd, and you have exposed yourself as un-Epicurean. The first/second-century AD Stoic doxographer Cleomedes, who as Algra points out "nowhere takes account of the Epicurean principle of multiple explanations," likewise fails this test when he mocks Epicurus' position on the size of the sun.

Post by "Don" of June 28, 2022 at 2:43 PM

[About the Piglet | The Herculaneum Society](#)

Post by "Don" of June 28, 2022 at 2:46 PM

Image not found or type unknown

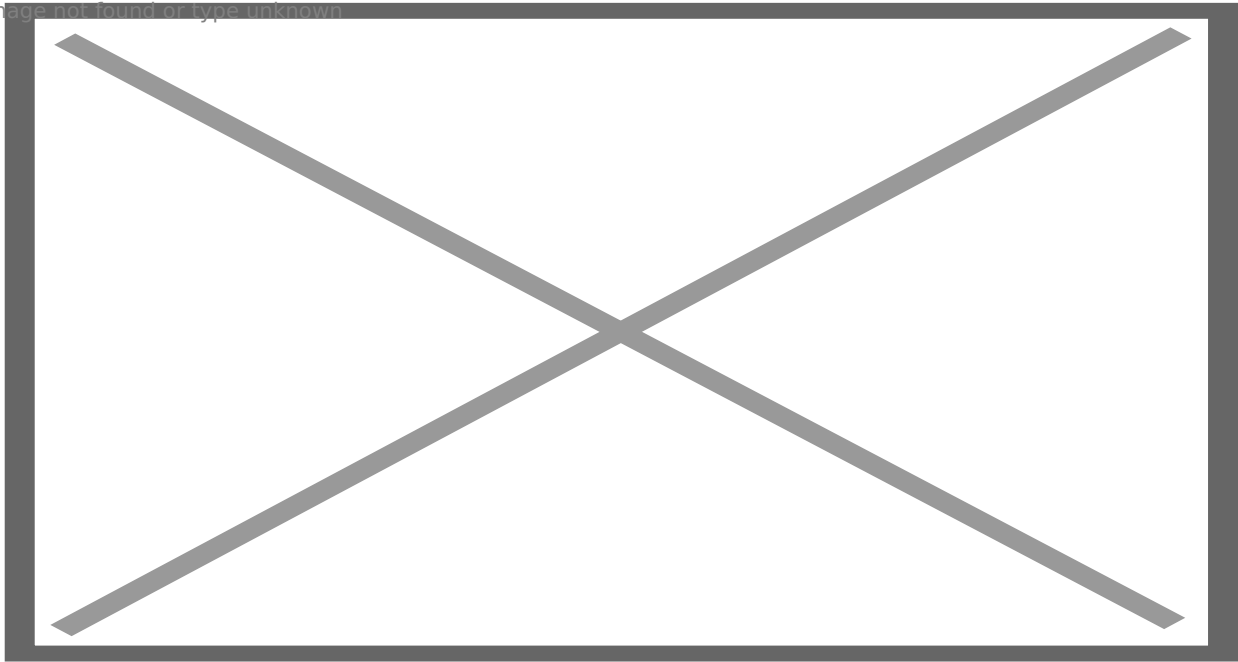


[The beautiful ancient house discovered in the ashes](#)

The luxurious Villa of the Papyri was revealed by excavators in the 18th Century - and its many treasures are now on display in Los Angeles. Daisy Dunn takes a...
www.bbc.com

Post by "Don" of June 28, 2022 at 2:48 PM

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[Vincenzo Campana, Ancient Roman Fresh, Etching, 18th-Century](#)

Ancient Roman Fresco from the series "Antiquities of Herculaneum", is an original etching on paper realized by Vincenzo Campana in the 18th Century. Signed on...

www.pamono.eu

Post by "Cassius" of June 28, 2022 at 3:50 PM

From the [Herculaneum Society Page](#) that Don found - Someone else who appreciates "thumbing one's nose!" 😊

This life-size piglet was found in the Villa of the Papyri alongside many other bronzes and marbles in the largest collection of statues surviving from the Greco-Roman world. There is some evidence that the Epicureans adopted the piglet as a symbol of their hedonistic philosophy, which did not mean (as their critics alleged) the indulgence of carnal desires but the pursuit of true pleasure and inner tranquillity. The young animal is in an innocent state of nature and has not yet learned the fears and hatreds that cause pain in human life. "Pig" in the mouths of others was an insult so this appropriation of the tag was another way Epicureans thumbed their noses at society's ordinary, misguided values.

This carefree, energetic and frisky youngster, a favourite of many visitors to the Herculaneum Gallery in the National Archaeological Museum of Naples, seemed a good mascot for our young Society when we started up in 2004. And who knows but that pigs may fly?

Post by “Kalosyni” of June 29, 2022 at 8:01 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

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[Quote from Cassius](#)

The young animal is in an innocent state of nature and has not yet learned the fears and hatreds that cause pain in human life.

And pigs have no thumbs 😇

I could create a graphic, will see what I can come up with 😊

Post by “Eikadistes” of June 29, 2022 at 11:20 AM

I *feel* like I may not have shared these before, but feel free to use them for additional image creation.





Post by “Cassius” of June 29, 2022 at 11:37 AM

Thank you Nate!

Post by “Kalosyni” of June 29, 2022 at 12:46 PM

@Nate, for some reason my tablet doesn't want to open the second two images. You might have better software for making graphics -- can you make this pig white with a yellow circle behind it?

Post by “Eikadistes” of June 29, 2022 at 1:41 PM

The latter two images are high-quality transparency images. If you have a black background, the black images will blend into it because they do not contain any negative space except for a PNG background-removal.

Post by “Eikadistes” of June 29, 2022 at 1:41 PM

I can definitely do a white pig with a yellow circle though!

I'll hit you up after work.

Post by “Cassius” of June 29, 2022 at 8:03 PM

What we eventually need is a "vector graphic" image of that leaping pig, along the lines of what Nate already has, in a format that these vector graphic programs like Inkscape (the free one) and others can use.

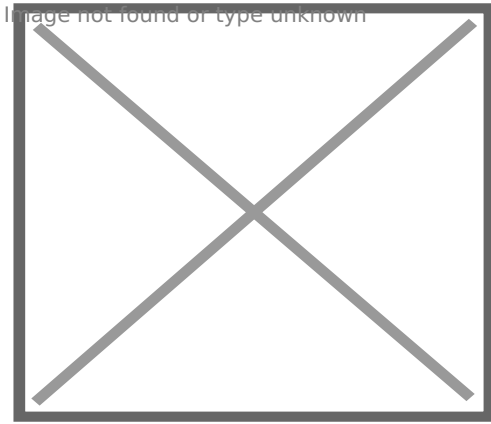
That way the image can be rotated and resized and all sorts of things done to it without losing sharpness.

I think what's involved is "tracing" the PNG into such a program and saving it in SVG format. I will try to experiment if I can find time, but that's what we need - an SVG format.

Ironic, because what it means is turning an actual image of a pig into a series of electronic numbers 😊

Post by “Cassius” of June 29, 2022 at 8:11 PM

For example here is how it is done in Inkscape:



[Inkscape tutorial: Tracing bitmaps | Inkscape](#)
inkscape.org

I have made one that appears pretty decent, but I need to fix the attachments here so I can attach an SVG file

Post by “Cassius” of June 29, 2022 at 8:19 PM

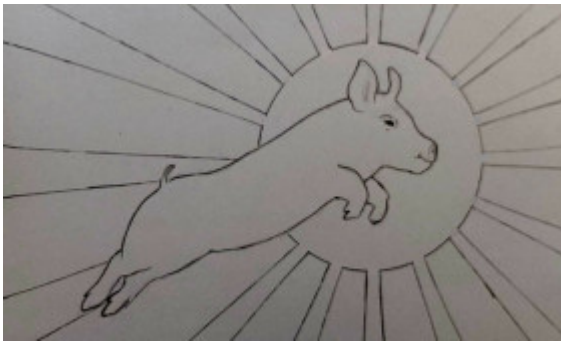
And here is the sample I made from Nate's PNG:

Post by “Cassius” of July 2, 2022 at 11:25 AM

Admin Note: A long sidebar on katastematic pleasure has been moved to its own thread in the Ethics section: [Do Pigs Like Katastematic Pleasure? \(Summer 2022 K / K Discussion\)](#)

Post by “Kalosyni” of July 6, 2022 at 7:47 PM

Here is another idea, just a rough sketch:



Post by “Cassius” of July 6, 2022 at 8:13 PM

I like that!

Post by “Rolf” of April 16, 2025 at 6:57 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)



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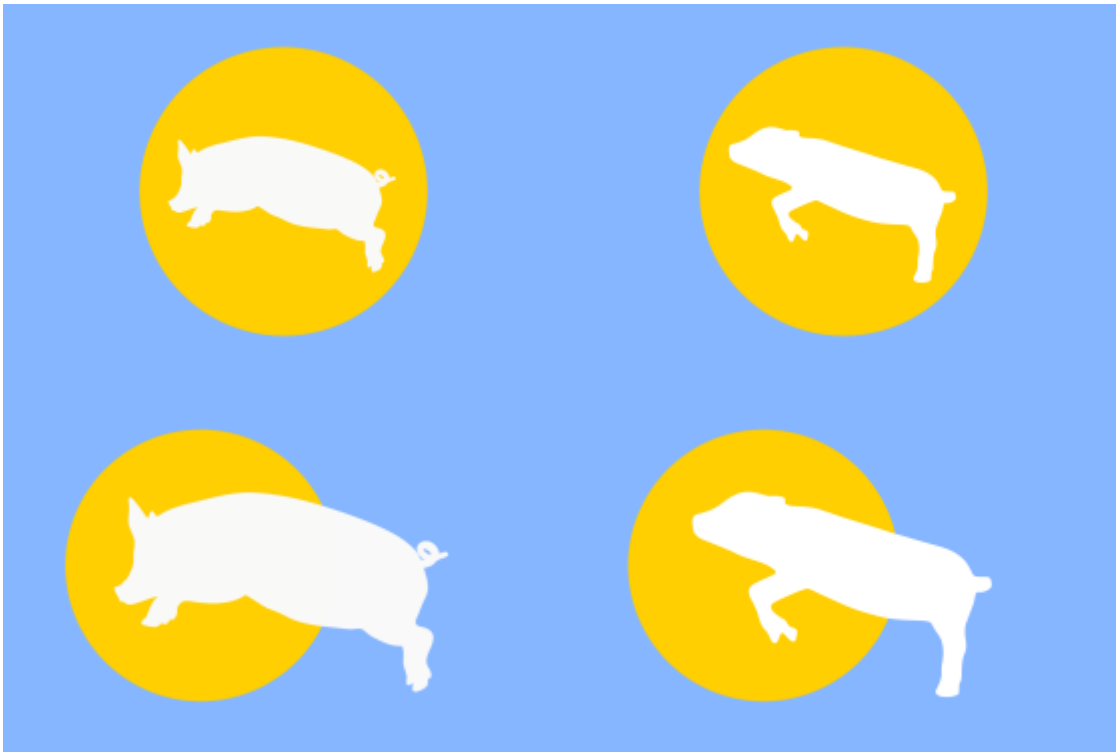
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Display More

I'm a bit of a flag nerd and decided to take a crack at this!

Edit: Realised that the "sun" was not aligned so went back to fix it. Also created versions using the classic piggy.



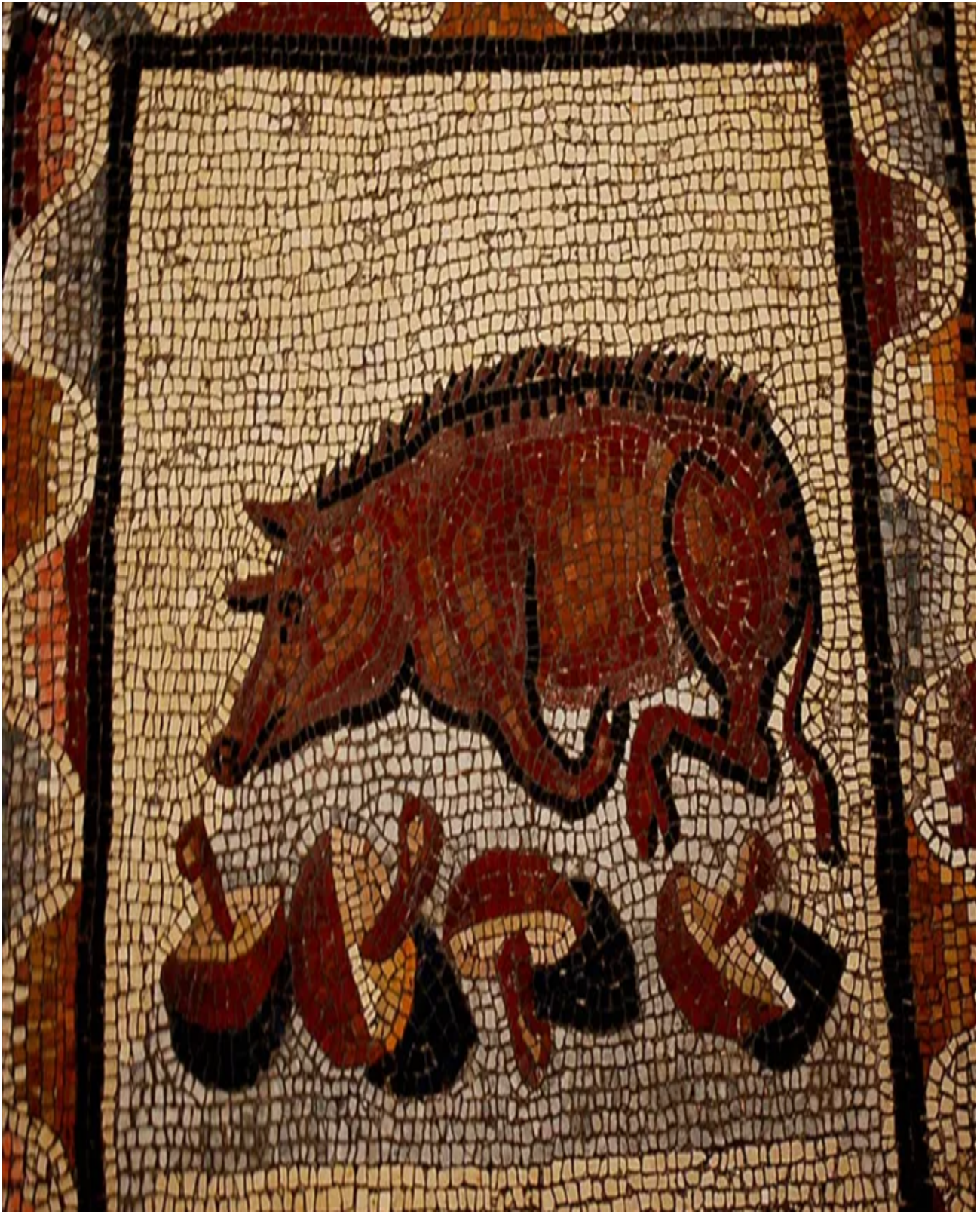
Post by “Eikadistes” of April 16, 2025 at 7:18 PM

[Rolf](#) , I'm loving where your head is at. You have found a kindred spirit on here, indeed.



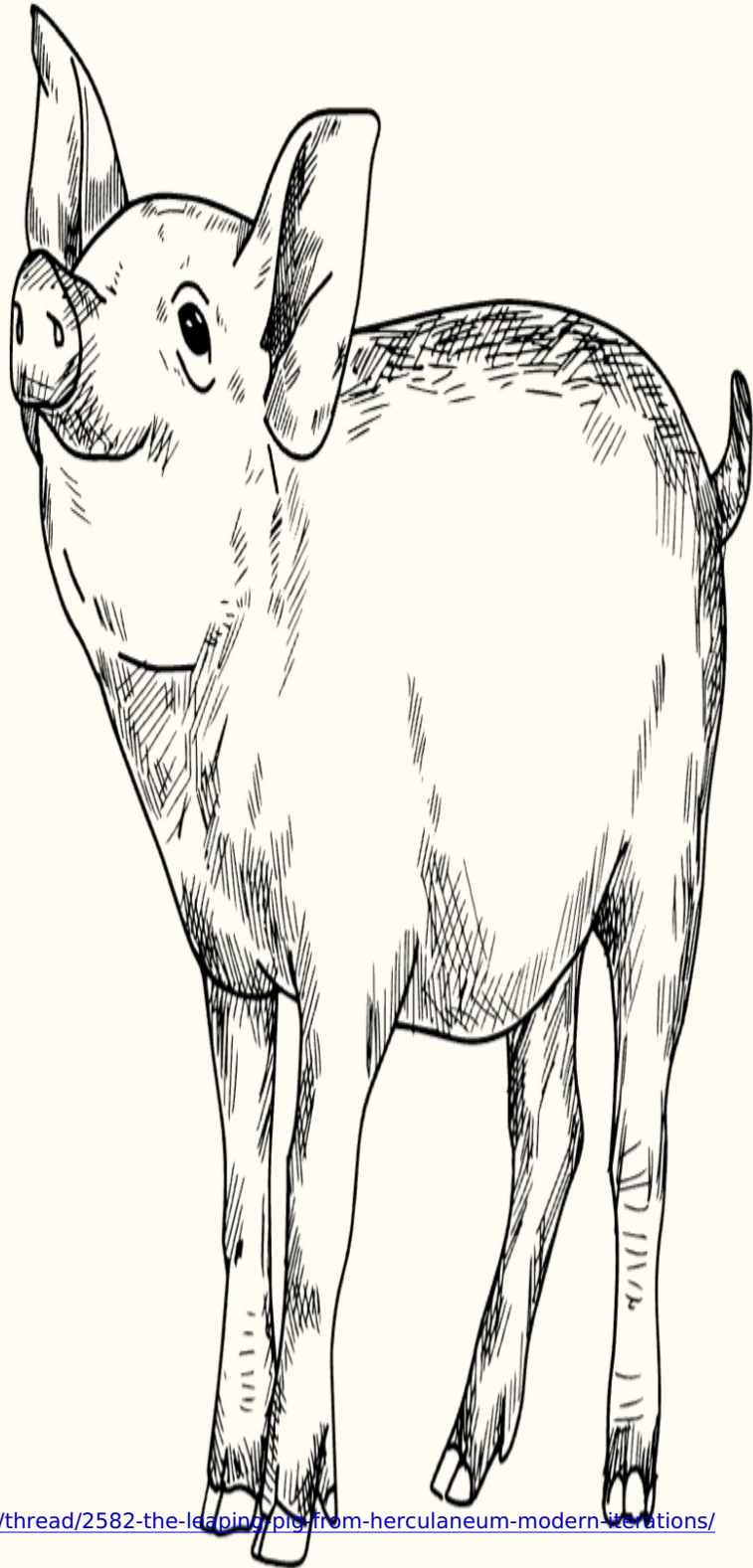


Post by “Joshua” of April 20, 2025 at 4:31 PM



This is a Roman mosaic from c.200 AD, now in the Vatican Museum. A pig with mushrooms.

Post by “Kalosyni” of April 20, 2025 at 5:40 PM




"Pleasantly Happy Pig" (made with clip art from Canva).

Post by "Rolf" of April 21, 2025 at 1:34 PM

No leaping pig on this one, but decided to try another interpretation of an Epicurean flag, this time featuring the vessel of pleasure and pain.

Post by "Don" of April 21, 2025 at 1:40 PM

If you wanted to be cryptic, replace the E with a ēta H for ΗΔΟΝΗ (hēdonē) "pleasure" ηδονή


Post by "vlasalv" of April 21, 2025 at 3:35 PM

I like flags. Here is a suggestion from ChatGPT of an Epicurean flag:



- **Background:** Sage green, embodying nature, tranquility, and balance.
- **Central Emblem:** A white oil lamp silhouette, its gentle shape evoking steady, moderate pleasure (ataraxia & aponia).
- **Olive Wreath:** A thin white circle of olive leaves, symbolising the Garden (Kēpos), community, and natural living.
- **Four Pebbles:** Four small white dots at the north, east, south, and west, representing the Tetrastrophos (“four-part cure”).

That, by the way, reminds me of a ground-level Zoroastrian Love of Wisdom (the sacred fire.)

Post by “sanantoniogarden” of April 21, 2025 at 4:03 PM

An attempt *used chatgpt

Post by “Don” of April 21, 2025 at 4:09 PM

[Quote from vlasalv](#)

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Hurrah for Vexillology!!



of the Unitarian Universalists:

Post by “Eikadistes” of April 21, 2025 at 6:55 PM

[Quote from Don](#)

Hurrah for Vexillology!!



of the Unitarian Universalists:

And Stoicism.

The Stoics called *dibs* on symbolic flames.

While we're on the topic of *Vexillology*, I may as well share this guy:



