

Why pursue unnecessary desires?

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Engaging conversation. At the risk of muddying waters, I'm not sure looking for the "logical" reasons behind Epicurus' categorization of desires is as fruitful as it may sound. My perspective veers more toward seeing Epicurus as an observational researcher of the natural world and synthesizing those observations into workable practical applications for real people. Breaking down desires is a way of making sense of the mental landscape in which we move. Epicurus experimented from time to time in trying to only satisfy his most basic necessary needs, wants, desires, paring down his desires to see what would give him pleasure in the case that all other opportunities were unavailable. "What, at a minimum, do I *need*?" I categorically dismiss the idea that he lived like this the majority of the time like an ascetic. I see his categorization as a tool for us to assess our own mental landscape and the choices that arise. His categories flow naturally in many ways from just looking at the numerous desires living beings have.