

Why pursue unnecessary desires?

Post by "Don" of May 5, 2025 at 11:09 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

If so (and i think it's yes) what does that do to the attempt to make the categories into a hard and fast list?

There can be no "hard and fast" list of any of the myriad desires because it's (like much of Epicurus' philosophy) all very contextual. Granted, there are some desires that can be labeled necessary: The desire to breathe, the desire to eat, etc. BUT even there consider this:

We ALL have the desire to breathe. What happens when this desire occurs if you're trying to hide from someone who wants to kill you? You're holding your breath to remain undetected. The desire to breath is overridden by the context of your desire to remain hidden and safe. I realize that's an extreme example, but I think it illustrates the point.