

Epicurus' Hierarchy of Needs

Post by "Rolf" of June 3, 2025 at 9:32 AM

Decided to look up some definitions on my beloved Wiktionary and found something interesting.

The third definition of the word "luxury" is given as: *"Something that is pleasant but not necessary in life."*

This seems to fit perfectly with the Epicurean view of desires that are natural but unnecessary.

On the other hand, the definitions given for the word "extravagance" are markedly anti-Epicurean, aligning more closely with empty/corrosive desires, such as "excessive" and "prodigality".

I realise that dictionary definitions rarely represent concrete, objective meanings, but perhaps they can be useful in pointing us towards how words are most commonly used and interpreted.