

# Epicurus' Hierarchy of Needs

Post by “Godfrey” of June 3, 2025 at 8:03 PM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

This is probably a good time for a reminder that the only authoritative explanation (so far as I recall at the moment - are there others?) of the natural/necessary classification (aside from the scholium in DL which is of uncertain source) is that of Torquatus in *On Ends* (Reid translation).

[Cassius](#) I'm not sure that I'm reading your post #30 correctly but, for reference, here are PDs relevant to the categories of desires:

[PD26](#) *The desires that do not bring pain when they go unfulfilled are not necessary; indeed they are easy to reject if they are hard to achieve or if they seem to produce harm.*

[PD21](#) *One who perceives the limits of life knows how easy it is to expel the pain produced by a lack of something and to make one's entire life complete; so that there is no need for the things that are achieved through struggle.*

[PD29](#) *Among desires, some are natural and necessary, some are natural and unnecessary, and some are unnatural and unnecessary (arising instead from groundless opinion).*

[PD30](#) *Among natural desires, those that do not bring pain when unfulfilled and that require intense exertion arise from groundless opinion; and such desires fail to be stamped out not by nature but because of the groundless opinions of humankind.*