

Good and Bad Desire and Doubt In Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Cassius" of April 1, 2026 at 8:44 AM

Patrikios If I read you correctly I agree with your position.

There is a lot of ambiguity in both "natural" and "necessary" and I think it is very ill advised to be overly dogmatic (in the worst sense of the word) as to what activities or what desires go in each category.

That's why I try to emphasize that the categorization is a "tool of analysis" (which is the way I see Torquatus describing it, as a conceptual framework toward classification but not a bright line) , rather than trying to use the classification as a stand-alone blueprint.

Ultimately I don't think there are bright lines involved here other than the question of whether the desire is *unlimited*. If you pursue *unlimited* amounts of something you are by definition going to fail because as a human being you are limited by time and space. That's a bright line, and it can include sex if you choose to pursue *unlimited* amounts/types of sex.

Il added this note near the part you quoted:

NOTE: In case it is not clear already, in the following discussion all specific desires are contextual and relative to the time and place and persons involved. The qualifier *GENERALLY* should be understood as applying to all specific desires, except insofar as any desire is pursued in *UNLIMITED* fashion. Depending on context the classification of a particular desire may shift from category to category, but the pursuit of any desire in *UNLIMITED* fashion is always going to be definitionally unattainable.