

Retirement (Financial Independence, Early Retirement, etc.)

Post by "Don" of September 6, 2020 at 11:08 AM

PD 30 is an important passage here as well:

Quote

Epicurus Wiki translation: Those **natural desires** which create no pain when unfulfilled, though **pursued with an intense effort**, are also due to groundless opinion; and if they are not dispelled, it is **not because of their own nature**, but because of human vanity.

And also this Nussbaum translation:

Quote

Nussbaum, Therapy of Desire, p.153: Whenever, among those **natural desires** that do not lead to pain if they are not fulfilled, an **intense eagerness (spoudē suntonos) is present**, they too are the products of false belief. And it is **not on account of their own nature** that they are not dispelled, but in account of the human being's empty believing. (Philodemus uses the word suntonos of the sort of anger the Epicurean will avoid.)

Natural desires (phusikōn epithumiōn) that are not necessary are NOT necessary due to some inherent nature of their own but because of the groundless beliefs/opinions that give rise to them. There are not good or bad desires, like pleasure is a good and pain is bad. That's why Epicurus provides the categories that he does and doesn't say some desires are good and some are bad.