

What Is An Example of a Natural But Not Necessary Desire?

Post by "Don" of March 14, 2021 at 1:22 PM

Additionally...

127g. καὶ τῶν φυσικῶν αἱ μὲν ἀναγκαῖαι, αἱ δὲ φυσικαὶ μόνον; (kai tōn physikōn hai men anangkaiai, hai de physikai monon;) "And of the natural ones, on the one hand, are the necessary ones; on the other, the only natural ones."

ἀναγκαίων (anangkaiōn) "necessary, essential"

127h. τῶν δ' ἀναγκαίων αἱ μὲν πρὸς εὐδαιμονίαν εἰσὶν ἀναγκαῖαι, (tōn d' anangkaiōn hai men pros eudaimonian eisin anangkaiai,)

"then, of the necessary ones: on the one hand, those necessary for eudaimonia;"

127i. αἱ δὲ πρὸς τὴν τοῦ σώματος ἀοχλησίαν, αἱ δὲ πρὸς αὐτὸ τὸ ζῆν.

ἀοχλησία "freedom from disturbance"

"then, those [necessary] for the freedom from disturbance for the body; then those [necessary] for life itself."

There are some translations that interpret αἱ δὲ πρὸς τὴν τοῦ σώματος ἀοχλησίαν to mean things like clothing and shelter - those things that provide "freedom from disturbance" for the body, that is for one's physical existence. That isn't literally what is written so that is simply one interpretation. Those necessary for life itself are, one might suppose, those at the base of Maslow's hierarchy of needs: food, water, shelter, sleep, air, etc. Those necessary for eudaimonia may be even a little more open to interpretation but still have to be based on Epicurus's philosophy.