

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

Post by “Joshua” of March 15, 2021 at 5:57 PM

My conclusion after reading this is that my command of the source texts has seriously declined! I'm quite impressed with some of you!

If we could say for certain, for everybody and for all times and places, that:

A.) a given desire is unnatural and unnecessary, *and*

B.) That we *ought* not pursue unnatural and unnecessary desires,

Then we will have *ipso facto* established a (false) universal ethical law. Epicurus makes it plain elsewhere that there are no absolute universal ethical laws. So he *cannot* be saying what people think he is saying. These categories are observations to aid with the business of living, not premises to aid with the business of Logic. Maybe they're helpful, maybe they're not; from my point of view it certainly seems that they cause more confusion than anything. But one thing that is clear, or should be, is that these observations are not meant to establish by inference a series of Commandments.

Quote

Well, I am confronted with secondary literature that all presents clear-cut answers and I am questioning some of those....

Sounds like Manuel was getting the right idea!