

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

Post by “Cassius” of March 15, 2021 at 9:28 PM

[Quote from JJElbert](#)

These categories are observations to aid with the business of living, not premises to aid with the business of Logic.

Yes I completely agree with your full post Joshua and this part in particular. It is sort of a theme of my recent Epicurean thought that it is key to watch out for the lines between logical analysis vs more strict canonical Epicurean analysis so as to avoid confusion. I do think it is necessary to play in both camps so as to be able to communicate with those on "the other side" but if you're not constantly on the lookout for the limits of logical reasoning then you're apt to be trapped. I would think this was a problem in Epicurus' day as well, but maybe it was easier to avoid when there were so many other Epicureans to assist in making sure that errors were quickly corrected.

I believe that this instance (natural and necessary) constitutes a prime example where Epicurus was willing to talk in terms that would be apt to be misconstrued if one didn't understand his premises and realize that he could NOT be talking about universally absolute standards. In my own mind I put this example next to what I think is a parallel example: that of the "limit of pleasure is the absence of pain" which cannot have been meant to convey the extreme minimalism that could be construed from it if one puts aside the bulk of the rest of the philosophy. Just as with "natural and necessary" the device can be very useful in certain types of analysis if one keeps ones head and doesn't lose sight of the big picture.