

Thoughts on Categorizing Desires: Natural, Necessary, and Vain

Post by "Titus" of October 7, 2022 at 4:43 PM

It's interesting how others perceive the famous approach of Epicurus how to categorize desires.

I would have categorized the natural and necessary desires in the way you do.

Generally speaking, the natural and not necessary desires are according to my perception extensions to the necessary desires, but still natural. Because they are based on our innate human condition, they just have to be avoided in the case of causing pain and damage.

The unnatural desires relate to everything else. Since almost everything can be related to a natural source, I would suggest this category is something more about abstract ideas and wants, as Diogenes Laertios relates them to the search for power and fame.

Power and fame are not bad themselves, but one usually loses focus on what is the well of our wellbeing. This is the reason why we should usually avoid them and be very critical to these conditions.