

# Order of Natural & Necessary Desires in Menoecus

Post by “kochiekoch” of December 25, 2024 at 3:49 PM

## [Quote from Pacatus](#)

With that said, I find the order here interesting: one might normally think that “for life itself”, being the most basic, would be the first one to consider in an ascending order (viz. Don ‘s reference in his notes to Maslow’s hierarchy). But the first one brought to mind by Epicurus is eudaimonia; then a body free from disturbance; and only then “life itself.”

I suspect this is not accidental, Epicurus being a careful writer. Thoughts?

Yeah, that's interesting, isn't it?

Menoikeis is INVERTING Maslow's famous hierarchy of needs. Rather than saying that the physiological needs are first, Menoikeis is saying that wisdom, confidence and friends are the most important. Safety and the basic physiological needs will follow as they are easy to obtain in Epicurean thinking once a degree of wisdom is achieved.

[Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs2 - Maslow's hierarchy of needs - Wikipedia](#)

## [Quote from Pacatus](#)

“And of the natural ones [i.e., desires], on the one hand, are the necessary ones; on the other, the ones which are only natural; then, of the necessary ones: on the one hand, those necessary for eudaimonia; then, those necessary for the freedom from disturbance for the body; then those necessary for life itself.” Letter to Menoikeus, 127; Don Boozar translation. [<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/wcf/filebase/download/97/>]