

Why pursue unnecessary desires?

Post by “Rolf” of May 2, 2025 at 12:41 PM

Hey folks!

I’m getting stumped on something that previously I felt I had a firm grasp on: Why pursue (natural) unnecessary desires, if necessary desires are all that are needed for happiness? If the limit of pleasure is the absence of pain (ie. 100% pleasure 0% pain), aren’t unnecessary desires merely variation?

I recall the ‘cup’ infographic. One of the examples of a “bad” cup is one that is half full, in which only necessary desires are pursued - a cup of asceticism. I can acknowledge that I enjoy unnecessary pleasures and wish to pursue them, but logically speaking, *why* exactly should we not aim to fulfil only our necessary desires?