

Why pursue unnecessary desires?

Post by “Rolf” of May 2, 2025 at 2:51 PM

Thanks for the insight, Don and Cassius. A few notes...

[Quote from Joshua](#)

The limit of the quantity of pixels on a given screen is x , and even a black and white film will employ every pixel - but will the quality of the experience be better in full color? I think it probably will be.

Does this not fall into the fallacy of there being a “hierarchy” of pleasures? I understood it as all pleasure being equally, well, pleasurable - no “fancy pleasures”, as Elayne put it.

[Cassius](#)

I’m still a little confused. I understand that the intention is that we should simply maximise pleasure and minimise pain. However, I am struggling to follow the logical steps on this particular issue (pursuing unnecessary pleasures). Perhaps I’m getting too caught up on this classification?

When it comes to the “absence of pain” thing - I get that PD3 is a counterargument to Plato on pleasure having no limit. That’s not what I’m confused about here (though there’s another quote with a similar meaning that I still feel unsure about, but that’s a discussion for another thread).

What I’m confused about is this classification. Am I understanding correctly that the “necessary” in “necessary and natural desires” refers to being necessary for human well-being and happiness, and “unnecessary” to being unnecessary (but still pleasurable)? If that’s the case, why is it not enough for us to simply pursue and fulfil the necessary desires in order to reach this ideal (and largely hypothetical) state of 100% pleasure 0% pain? I understand in a practical sense that a minimal and ascetic life like this would be rather dull (and thus painful), but then I don’t understand the “necessary” and “unnecessary” terminology.

I hope I’m adequately explaining my confusion! Let me know if you’re unsure about what I mean.