

Why pursue unnecessary desires?

Post by "Cassius" of May 5, 2025 at 9:25 PM

i put together this chart to assist in conversation in our Monday zoom discussion about this topic. My summary of each answer is brief and no doubt grossly inadequate to what the speaker had to say, but I think the variation in answers might be good food for thought as the discussion continues. No doubt each person was thinking something different, especially as I explained the question, but the fact that the result of the Yes/No question was almost evenly split indicates that the answer does not seem to be obvious to everyone..

As Tau Phi asked me, my own answer to the first two columns would be "Pleasure / No," but like everyone else I would have explanation for each answer (and that's what we are discussing in this thread.).

The Rolf Question: Why Pursue Unnecessary Desires?

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?

| | What Is The Goal of Life? | Can You Reach This Goal By Pursuing Only Natural and Necessary Desires? (Yes/No) | If your answer is Yes, Why (Generally / Philosophically) Would You Pursue Any Other Desires? |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Kalosyni | Pleasure, Happiness | No | Some mental pleasures and happiness take a lot of time and effort |
| Martin | Pleasure | No | He wants the necessary but he then focuses on the remainder. |
| Alex | Have Fun | Yes | You would because they are fun – they are an optional bonus |
| Steve | Pleasure / Wellbeing | Yes | Because eventually you will need variation to stay at the goal. |
| Tau Phi | Satisfaction / Happiness | No | He wants experiences so as to know himself; he would not be content with only \underline{NN} |
| <u>Sanantonio</u> | PLEASURE | Yes | Yes because it is pleasurable. |
| Raphael | Contentment and Creativity (Pleasure) | No | Restrictions are painful and can lead to guilt. |
| <u>DaveT</u> | To Be Happy | No | Happy people pursue more than the necessary; limitations are Platonic/Stoic; its normal and natural to go beyond $\underline{N}+\underline{N}$ |