

Latest Thoughts On Natural and Necessary Classification of Desires - Adding A FAQ entry

Post by “Matteng” of November 29, 2025 at 4:50 AM

A strict rule based decision making I find difficult, we need always sober reasoning/prudence to judge/feel the consequences and the context to make good choices/avoidances.

But for orientation I see it currently like this table:

Epicurean Necessary Desires — with Urgency Level

Level	Greek term	Transliteration	Meaning	Urgency
1	πρὸς αὐτὸ τὸ ζῆν	pros auto to zēn	necessary to live at all (food, water, shelter, sleep)	Highest urgency — must be secured first
2	πρὸς τὴν τοῦ σώματος ἀοχλησίαν	pros tēn tou sōmatos aochlēsiān	necessary for bodily untroubledness (calm body, no disturbing pains)	Medium urgency — needed for stability and tranquility
3	πρὸς εὐδαιμονίαν	pros eudaimonian	necessary for happiness / flourishing (friendship, ataraxia, knowledge)	Low urgency but highest value

- Level 1 (survival) must be handled first — you cannot philosophize or rest if starving.
- Level 2 (aochlēsia) becomes important once survival is secure — it removes bodily noise.
- Level 3 (eudaimonia) is the least urgent but most important — it completes the good life.

→ Epicureans may sacrifice survival (Level 1) to protect Level 3 (friendship, integrity), because Level 3 has the highest value, even if it is least urgent.