

Continuous Life Improvement

Post by "Cassius" of October 5, 2019 at 5:06 AM

[Quote from Martin](#)

From the context of the surrounding text, I guess you mean unnecessary desires which are not worth the prior or subsequent pain when fulfilled.

Excellent catch, Martin. I think that's always a very important point - otherwise the "natural and necessary" categorization becomes a very un-Epicurean absolute rule, which would violate the more fundamental Epicurean observation that pleasure is pleasure is pleasure, all pleasure is desirable in itself, and the first question is always to ask what would happen practically if the particular desire/pleasure is pursued.

Given what I think is Epicurus' clear rigorously-consistent thought processes, I cannot imagine that he intended an intellectual classification which varies with circumstance to override the general rule that [Pleasure is the guide of life](#). But that is just what happens when people (not referring to Garden Dweller) elevate the useful categorization tool to an end in itself, just like that happens whenever any tool is so elevated to an end in itself, just like "virtue."

That observation applies the the very development and use of a set of observations like this "Continuous Life Improvement" list. As GD is finding, priorities shift with circumstance and written rules, no matter how generally and insightfully written, require adjustment to those circumstances.