

But before we do this I should define what I mean by the term "ultimate concerns." By "ultimate" I mean basic, foundational, most important, crucial; and by "concern" I mean both anything that affects our welfare or happiness and vitally affects our interests, and our care and anxiety over that thing. Thus by "ultimate concern" I mean anxious care over anything that crucially affects our welfare and/or well-being.

Now let us look at the first major question:

I. WHAT ARE SOME ULTIMATE CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE THAT HUMAN BEINGS EXPERIENCE?

It is not my intention to exhaustively mention all ultimate concerns that human beings may experience, but only some anxious cares over things that crucially affect their future welfare or well-being.

A. Some human beings experience ultimate concern over what they perceive to be the basic needs of life

And what do they perceive as basic needs? Abraham Maslow (a psychologist), in his book Motivation and Personality, names five basic needs commonly listed, and then adds two more. These seven needs are physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, esteem needs, self-actualization needs, cognitive needs, and aesthetic needs. Let us briefly look at this list to see how they are perceived as ultimate concerns.

1. Physiological needs -- These include such things as food, clothing, shelter, medical care, etc.

But are these really things of ultimate concern? Should food and medical care really be matters of anxious care? Perhaps if we interviewed some of the displaced and starving and homeless peoples of