



Grådighed og begær

af Anders Fogh Jensen, filosof

- Jeg vil tage.
Først var begæret.
- Jeg vil have mere og beholde.
Så kom grådigheden.

Begæret vil, indtil det bliver tilfredsstillet. Og så vil det måske lidt senere igen. Men grådigheden vil noget andet. Grådigheden vil hobe op. Don Juan var ikke grådig med kvinder. Han var begærlig. Og Casanova. Hvis vi skulle tale om en, der var grådig med kvinder, må det væreurfaderen i Freuds myte, ham, der holdt sønnerne væk fra alle kvinderne og beholdt dem for sig selv.

Grådigheden vil eje, det vil begæret ikke, begæret vil tage. Grådigheden vil hobe op, spare op. Når begæret har taget, vil grådigheden holde.

Grådigheden har en forstoppelse, som begæret ikke ejer. Begæret flyder.

Den, der vil have det nye par sko, har måske nok mange hjemme i skabet. Men ophobningen skyldes ikke grådighed. Den skyldes begær efter netop det nye par sko. Imens ligger ophobningen i glemsel. Grådig er kun den, der vil have mange sko.

Greed and Desire

by Anders Fogh Jensen, philosopher

- I want to have.
First desire.
- I want to have more and to keep it.
Then greed.

Desire wants until it is satisfied. Perhaps wanting more again later. But greed takes a different path. Greed wants to accumulate. Don Juan was not greedy with women. He was desirous of them. As was Casanova. If we are to name a person who was greedy for women, surely it must be the primal father in Freud's myth; the one who barred his sons from all the women, keeping them for himself.

Greed wants to possess, not so desire: desire wants to have. Greed will accumulate, save up. When desire has had its fill, greed will retain possession.

Greed is characterised by a sort of constipation entirely absent in desire. Desire merely flows.

Someone wanting a specific pair of new shoes probably has a wardrobe full back home. But this accumulation is not due to greed. It is due to the desire for this specific pair of new shoes. Meanwhile the accumulation is clean forgotten. Only someone wanting many shoes can be described as greedy.