

## Choosing need or greed

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I have often been told that 'to desire is to self-destruct'. I rebel against this. I am human; therefore, how can I be bereft of desire. Look around and you will realise that all things beautiful have been created or have so happened because they were desired.

The scriptures say, and I paraphrase "everything in this world exists because of desire. When desire comes to an end, the world dissolves." According to several wise men of yore, "The incentive to perform an act is not possible without desire."

Having, therefore, said that it is desire that gives us hope, we must quickly acknowledge that misplaced desire can be dangerous.

To desire for a great relationship with my spouse is healthy, yet to desire that she or he will always be available to me, destroys the possibility of a collaborative relationship. To desire to win is fair and positive, yet to desire that another should lose is destructive. To desire success is sensible, yet to be consumed by the thought that you are a failure if you do not succeed is counter-productive.

Tempering desire with discrimination, not allowing it to intoxicate us, will give us the freedom to recognise possibilities in our desires and induce in us the ability to know the difference between greed and need.

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