

## The Core of Ambition: Greed or Passion?

Last weekend, I finally got some downtime and scrolled through Netflix after a long break. I came across a show about Bernie Madoff. I was familiar with his Ponzi scheme, but watching all the episodes triggered a deeper reflection on the **concept of greed**. While I understand that greed and capitalism often coexist and that many of us appreciate the lifestyle they can provide, I began to question: what exactly is greed? How does it differ from passion?

In my perspective, greed is not inherently evil; it can reward individuals for their talent, enabling them to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. However, like anything good, there is a fine line. **Greed becomes problematic when it becomes the sole source of satisfaction and self-worth, compensating for personal shortcomings and compromising values driven by fear, anxiety, ego, and competition.**

**Passion, on the other hand, is fueled by excitement and a desire for self-improvement. It is rewarding because it entails hard work and a sense of achievement and progression. This gradual process often results in broader contributions to society and the betterment of humanity. More importantly, it fosters greater life satisfaction, passing the mirror test—you like the person you see in the mirror.**

Greed and passion are distinct emotional states, each with its own characteristics and implications. Let's explore the differences:

**Greed** refers to a selfish or excessive desire for more than is needed or deserved, especially related to money, wealth, food, or other possessions.

- Driven by self-interest and accumulation.
- Often disregards the welfare of others.
- Can lead to negative outcomes, such as exploitation or corruption.
- May stem from fear of lack, low self-esteem, anxiety, ego, and competition.

**Passion** represents any strong, powerful emotion or intense enthusiasm.

- Inspires personal growth and contribution to society.
- Driven by excitement, self-improvement, and achievement.
- Can lead to positive outcomes and fulfilment.
- May evolve into broader dimensions like societal contribution and love (self and others) .

To identify whether you are driven by passion or greed, consider asking yourself the following questions:

- **Motivation:** What truly motivates me? Is it personal growth, contribution, or accumulation?
- **Growth:** How am I growing? Is my focus on self-improvement or material gain?
- **Quality of Life:** How satisfied am I across all aspects of life? Is it balanced?

- **Resilience:** Am I driven by short bursts of enthusiasm or sustained effort?
- **Self-Perception:** How do I feel when I'm not the centre of attention?
- **Commitment:** How much time and effort am I willing to invest in my pursuits?
- **Relationships:** Do I see people and resources as something to nurture or use?
- **Money Mindset:** How often do I think about money? Is it from a place of lack or security?
- **Life Purpose:** How excited am I about my life purpose?

## **Bias Towards Power**

Consider the role models you admire and the individuals you get jealous of. Often, we tend to have more grace towards powerful people, and issues with high-profile individuals can go unnoticed. Reflect on:

- **Role Models:** Who are my role models? Who do I admire?
- **Admiration and Jealousy:** Who do I get jealous of? What does this say about my values?

This reflection often mirrors our personal values and the biases we hold towards success and status.

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