

# He who dies with the most toys is still dead.

"For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?"

--Matthew 17:26

For you had compassion on the prisoners, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one."

--Hebrews 11:34

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

--I Timothy 6:7

the house of the righteous is much treasure:  
in the revenues of the wicked is trouble."

--Proverbs 15:6

Nothing in life  
do we own--  
only our thoughts,  
not our bodies,  
not other bodies  
nor other things.

Ownership  
is an attitude  
or concept,  
not a reality.

Ownership  
is perceived power  
and not an  
absolute or truth.

When one enters  
the world,  
one has nothing.  
Our form and each  
heartbeat,  
are gifts,  
not guarantees.

When one leaves  
the world,  
one takes nothing,  
leaves all behind.

Thus,  
possession  
becomes sharing,  
not ownership.

Possession is temporary,  
merely a pause  
before saying  
good-bye.

"Not that I am worried about the seven deadly sins. They have become virtues . . . Lust is America's favorite indoor sport. Gluttony can be seen in the national passion for fancy recipes and high-priced restaurants. Sloth is celebrated in fashionable magazines in the guise of leisure, recreation, and entertainment. Pride abounds in names such as black pride, gay pride, and lesbian pride. Wrath is the great virtue of revolutionaries and reformers. Envy, as Bertrand Russell said, is the basis of democracy. And avarice keeps our stock markets humming.

In the old days, punishment was essential for sin, yet the idea of punishment seems as obsolete as sin itself. One prominent clergyman has said that people are more afraid of losing their jobs than they are of going to hell.

Albert B. Dahlquist of Mundelain, Illinois, in a letter to *Harpers*, February 1988.