

SELF-INTEREST

His self-interest troubles me, Father.

He had 1800 rolls of toilet paper,
and he asked the shop to buy them back.
I can only assume that he bought them to resell,
at an exorbitant profit.
But there is no longer a shortage—
was no shortage.
The panic buying is over,
And he is left with 1800 rolls.

I thought:
Serves him right;
He got his just desserts;
He exacerbated a problem
hoping to profit from it.
The shop manager simply answered him
with a gesture!

Is it entrepreneurship,
opportunism,
or greed?
Why are some so quick to seize a chance
To gain from difficult circumstances,
To exploit the situation while others struggle?

And yet, in my judgement of others,
Am I blind to my own weaknesses, Father?

Do I justify my own self-interest?
Do I love as you require?
Do I live as you require?

*Where there is jealousy and selfishness, there is also disorder and every kind of evil. But the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle, and friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds; it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy. And goodness is the harvest that is produced from the seeds the peacemakers plant in peace.
(James 3: 16–18, GNT)*