Selfishness

"Modesty and unselfishness, these are the virtues which men praise, and pass by." Why do people praise these virtues? It is because these virtues are important to a society and a better world for everyone. However, people pass by these virtues. In fact, people practice the exact opposite, selfishness. This I believe: selfishness is what corrupts a society, and people should try to limit their selfishness for other people's happiness.

In the famous novel "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Daisy Buchanan hit Myrtle Wilson with a car, "Well, first Daisy turned away from the woman [Myrtle] toward the other car, and then she lost her nerve and turned back." (Fitzgerald 143) Daisy turned the car away at first because she still values modesty and unselfishness. She can choose between hit a person with Gatsby's car and drive on, which will allow her to live; she can also hit another car to let Myrtle live, but she will get injured. However, her selfishness told her that she might die from hitting another car. Therefore, she turned back, hit Myrtle, and drove on. Because Daisy killed Myrtle in Gatsby's car, everyone believes that Gatsby is the one who killed Myrtle. Daisy had the choice of telling the truth, but "she vanished into her rich house, into her rich, full life, leaving Gatsby – nothing." (Fitzgerald 162) Gatsby's burden is death, for Myrtle's husband killed Gatsby to revenge. Hatred, fear, and vengeance, are all caused by selfishness.

Selfishness is what blemishes a society. It is part of the human nature. It causes the unhappiness of others. It is like a set of dominos. If one falls to selfishness, then others will be pushed down too, thus making every building block of the world selfish and unhappy. Therefore, we should try to understand others, think for others, and sacrifice for others. Although it is hard, but we should try. The Irish writer and poet, Oscar Wilde, has once written, "Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live."