

THINGS I WANT MY DAUGHTERS TO KNOW

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As a parent, one of my most heartfelt desires is to instill wisdom, confidence, and love in my daughters. I want them to grow into strong, compassionate, and independent women who are prepared to navigate the complexities of life with resilience and grace. This article is a reflection of the values, lessons, and guidance I hope to pass on to my daughters?things I want them to know not just in words, but in their hearts and actions. My goal is to provide them with a foundation that empowers them to face challenges confidently, embrace their uniqueness, and foster meaningful relationships.

Understanding Your Self-Worth

1. You Are Enough Just As You Are

It's vital for my daughters to understand that their worth is inherent and not dependent on external validation. They are valuable simply because they exist. No achievement, appearance, or approval can define their intrinsic worth.

2. Confidence Comes From Within

True confidence stems from self-awareness and self-acceptance. Encourage them to recognize their strengths, acknowledge their imperfections, and celebrate their individuality.

3. Self-Care Is Not Selfish

Taking care of their mental, emotional, and physical health is essential. Prioritizing self-care helps them stay resilient and ready to face life's challenges with a positive mindset.

Embracing Your Uniqueness

1. Your Voice Matters

Encourage them to speak up, express their opinions, and stand by their beliefs. Their voice is powerful and deserves to be heard.

2. Celebrate Your Differences

Everyone is unique. Embrace your individuality, whether it's your talents, interests, or perspectives. Your diversity adds value to the world.

3. Don't Conform Just to Fit In

While it's natural to want acceptance, remind them that true friends appreciate authenticity. Staying true to themselves is more important than conforming to others' expectations.

Building Healthy Relationships

1. Respect Yourself and Others

Healthy relationships are rooted in mutual respect. Teach them to set boundaries and expect respect in return.

2. Communication Is Key

Open, honest, and compassionate communication fosters trust and understanding. Encourage them to listen actively and speak kindly.

3. Know When to Let Go

Not all relationships are healthy. Recognize when a relationship is toxic and have the strength to distance themselves for their well-being.

Developing Resilience and Growth

1. Failures Are Opportunities to Learn

Mistakes are part of life's learning process. Teach them to see failures as opportunities to grow, not as setbacks.

2. Persistence Pays Off

Encourage them to stay committed to their goals, even when faced with obstacles. Resilience is built through perseverance.

3. Adaptability Is a Strength

Life is unpredictable. Adaptability helps them navigate change with grace and confidence.

Empowering Financial Independence

1. Learn to Manage Money Wisely

Teach them the importance of budgeting, saving, and investing. Financial literacy is crucial for independence.

2. Value Hard Work

Instill the understanding that success often requires effort, discipline, and patience.

3. Avoid Debt When Possible

Encourage responsible borrowing and avoiding unnecessary debt to maintain financial stability.

Fostering Compassion and Kindness

1. Practice Empathy

Understanding others' feelings fosters compassion. Encourage them to listen and show kindness.

2. Volunteer and Give Back

Helping others provides perspective and fulfillment. Encourage participation in community service.

3. Stand Up Against Injustice

Teach them to recognize unfairness and take action to promote equality and justice.

Living Authentically

1. Follow Your Passion

Support their pursuits and interests, even if they differ from societal expectations.

2. Trust Your Instincts

Encourage them to listen to their intuition when making decisions.

3. Be True to Your Values

Living according to their principles will bring inner peace and authenticity.

Taking Care of Your Mental Health

1. It's Okay Not to Be Okay

Acknowledge that everyone experiences difficult emotions. Seeking help is a sign of strength.

2. Practice Mindfulness and Gratitude

These practices help maintain emotional balance and foster positivity.

3. Set Boundaries for Your Well-Being

Learning to say no and protect your energy is essential for mental health.

Final Thoughts: A Message of Love and Hope

My daughters are my greatest treasures, and my deepest wish is for them to grow into compassionate, confident, and resilient women. I want them to know that they are loved unconditionally, and that their worth is not defined by external factors but by who they are inside. Life will present challenges, but with self-awareness, kindness, resilience, and integrity, they can navigate anything that comes their way.

Remember, every day is an opportunity to learn, grow, and become the best version of yourself. I hope these lessons serve as guiding stars in your journey. Cherish your individuality, nurture your passions, and always believe in your strength. The world needs your light, and I am so proud of the women you are becoming.

In closing, my greatest hope is that my daughters carry these truths in their hearts and continue to inspire those around them with their kindness, courage, and authenticity. No matter where life takes you, always remember that you are loved, capable, and deserving of happiness and success.

Things I Want My Daughters to Know

In a world that's constantly evolving?shaped by rapid technological advances, shifting cultural norms, and complex global challenges?parents often find themselves contemplating what essential life lessons and values they wish to pass down to their children. For my daughters, I believe there are core truths and guiding principles that will serve as anchors throughout their lives. These

lessons are not merely advice but are foundational insights I hope they carry into adulthood, empowering them to navigate the world with confidence, kindness, and resilience.

This article explores the key themes I want my daughters to understand?ranging from self-awareness and independence to empathy and critical thinking. By delving into these areas, I aim to articulate a comprehensive framework of wisdom that can serve as a guide for young women facing the complexities of modern life.

Understanding and Embracing Self-Identity

The Importance of Self-Knowledge

One of the most vital lessons I want my daughters to learn is the importance of knowing themselves deeply. Self-awareness forms the foundation of confidence, decision-making, and authentic living.

- Reflect Regularly: Encourage them to spend time in reflection?journaling, meditating, or simply contemplating their feelings and goals.
- Recognize Strengths and Weaknesses: Understand what they excel at and where they might need growth, embracing both with compassion.
- Define Personal Values: Clarify what matters most to them?integrity, kindness, ambition?and let these values guide their actions.

Celebrating Individuality

In a society that often pressures conformity, I want my daughters to embrace their uniqueness.

- Avoid Comparing Themselves to Others: Remind them that everyone?s journey is different, and their worth isn?t dictated by external standards.
- Express Their True Selves: Whether through fashion, interests, or opinions, they should feel free to be authentic.
- Challenge Stereotypes: Encourage questioning societal expectations, especially related to gender roles and beauty standards.

Building Resilience and Emotional Strength

Understanding That Failure is Part of Growth

Failures and setbacks are inevitable, but they are also vital learning opportunities.

- Reframe Failures: View mistakes as stepping stones rather than defeats.
- Practice Perseverance: Cultivate the mindset that persistence often leads to success.
- Learn from Criticism: Accept constructive feedback without defensiveness, using it as a tool for self-improvement.

Managing Emotions Effectively

Emotional intelligence is key to healthy relationships and personal well-being.

- Name and Validate Feelings: Teach them to identify emotions and understand their origins.
- Develop Healthy Outlets: Encourage activities like journaling, talking with trusted friends, or engaging in creative pursuits.
- Avoid Suppression: Emphasize that experiencing emotions fully is natural and necessary for growth.

Fostering Independence and Self-Reliance

Financial Literacy and Responsibility

Preparing my daughters to manage their finances confidently is essential.

- Budgeting: Teach them how to create and stick to a budget.
- Saving and Investing: Explain the importance of saving for future needs and exploring investment options.
- Understanding Credit: Clarify how credit works and the importance of maintaining good credit.

Making Decisions with Confidence

Empower them to trust their judgment.

- Research and Gather Information: Before making choices, seek knowledge and weigh options.
- Trust Their Instincts: Encourage listening to their intuition when something feels right or wrong.
- Accept Responsibility: Own their decisions, learning from both successes and mistakes.

Building Healthy Relationships and Setting Boundaries

Valuing Respect and Kindness

Relationships?romantic, platonic, or professional?are central to life.

- Treat Others with Dignity: Model and teach the importance of respect in all interactions.
- Recognize Healthy Relationships: Identify signs of mutual respect, trust, and support.
- Address Toxicity: Understand when to step away from harmful dynamics and prioritize their well-being.

Setting Boundaries

Knowing and asserting personal limits is crucial.

- Communicate Clearly: Use assertive language to express comfort levels or discomfort.
- Prioritize Self-Care: Recognize their own needs and not feel guilty about setting boundaries.
- Respect Others' Boundaries: Understand that boundaries are a two-way street, fostering mutual respect.

Championing Education and Lifelong Learning

The Value of Curiosity

Instilling a love of learning will serve them throughout their lives.

- Ask Questions: Cultivate curiosity about the world around them.
- Seek Knowledge: Read widely, explore new topics, and stay open-minded.
- Pursue Passions: Identify areas they're passionate about and dedicate time to them.

Critical Thinking and Media Literacy

In an age of information overload, discerning truth is vital.

- Evaluate Sources: Question the credibility of information, especially online.
- Avoid Echo Chambers: Engage with diverse perspectives to broaden understanding.
- Think Independently: Form opinions based on evidence rather than hearsay or hype.

Understanding Societal Issues and Their Role in the World

Awareness of Social Justice

Promoting empathy and activism can help make the world more equitable.

- Educate Themselves: Learn about issues like inequality, climate change, and human rights.
- Support Causes: Volunteer, donate, or advocate for positive change.
- Be an Ally: Use their voice to uplift marginalized communities.

Global Citizenship

Recognizing their place in a connected world fosters responsibility.

- Travel and Cultural Exchange: Embrace opportunities to experience different cultures.
- Reduce Environmental Impact: Practice sustainable habits.
- Stay Informed: Keep up with global news to understand broader contexts.

Prioritizing Well-Being and Self-Care

Physical Health

A healthy body supports a healthy mind.

- Nutrition: Eat balanced, nourishing foods.
- Exercise: Engage in regular physical activity they enjoy.
- Sleep: Understand the importance of restorative sleep.

Mental and Emotional Well-Being

Mental health is equally vital.

- Seek Help When Needed: Normalize therapy and counseling.
- Practice Mindfulness: Incorporate meditation or breathing exercises.
- Balance Work and Play: Strive for harmony between responsibilities and leisure.

In Conclusion: A Lifelong Journey

The lessons I wish my daughters to know are not static but evolving. As they grow, their understanding of themselves and the world will deepen, and their priorities may shift. My hope is that these guiding principles provide a sturdy compass, helping them navigate life's challenges with

integrity, compassion, and resilience.

Ultimately, I want my daughters to know that they are capable, worthy, and deserving of happiness. Whether facing setbacks or celebrating successes, they should carry a sense of their own worth and an unwavering belief in their potential. These are the things I want them to know?lessons that, if embraced, will serve as a foundation for a meaningful, empowered life.

Question Answer What values should I instill in my daughters to help them navigate life confidently? Encourage honesty, kindness, resilience, and self-awareness. Teach them to believe in themselves, embrace their uniqueness, and stand up for what is right. How can I support my daughters in building a positive body image? Promote self-love by praising their strengths beyond appearance, avoid negative comments about bodies, and model healthy attitudes toward body image yourself. What are important life skills I should teach my daughters? Equip them with skills like effective communication, financial literacy, problem-solving, time management, and self-advocacy to prepare them for independence. How can I encourage my daughters to pursue their passions and dreams? Show genuine interest in their interests, provide opportunities to explore different activities, and support their efforts regardless of societal expectations or challenges. What are some ways to foster emotional intelligence and mental well-being in my daughters? Teach them to recognize and express their feelings, practice active listening, promote mindfulness, and create an open environment where they feel safe discussing their emotions.

Related keywords: parenting advice, values to teach, life lessons, daughter guidance, important lessons, motherhood tips, parenting goals, family values, communication with daughters, raising strong daughters

Want Not

want not is a phrase rooted in the timeless principle of contentment and mindful consumption. In today's fast-paced, consumer-driven society, the idea of want not resonates more than ever, encouraging individuals to prioritize needs over wants and cultivate a more sustainable, fulfilling lifestyle. This article explores the origins, significance, practical applications, and benefits of embracing the want not mindset, offering insights into how it can lead to a more balanced and meaningful life.

Understanding the Concept of Want Not

Origins and Historical Context

The phrase want not has its origins in traditional wisdom and philosophical teachings that emphasize moderation and self-control. It is often associated with the idea of contentment?being satisfied with what one has rather than constantly seeking more. Historically, many cultures, from Stoic philosophy in Ancient Greece to Buddhist teachings in Asia, have advocated for a want not attitude as a path to inner peace and resilience.

Definition and Core Principles

At its core, want not is about:

- Recognizing the difference between needs and wants
- Practicing restraint in consumption and desire
- Fostering gratitude for what one already possesses
- Reducing unnecessary desires that lead to stress and dissatisfaction

By embracing these principles, individuals can reduce materialism and develop a more mindful approach to life.

The Importance of Want Not in Modern Society

The Rise of Consumerism and Its Impacts

Modern society is characterized by unprecedented levels of consumerism. Advertising, social media, and cultural norms constantly bombard individuals with messages encouraging them to buy more, upgrade, and seek the latest trends. This relentless pursuit of more often leads to:

- Financial stress and debt
- Environmental degradation
- Mental health issues such as anxiety and depression
- A sense of emptiness or dissatisfaction

In this context, adopting a want not philosophy can serve as a counterbalance, promoting sustainability and mental well-being.

Environmental Benefits of Want Not

Reducing unnecessary consumption directly benefits the environment by decreasing:

- Waste and landfill contributions
- Carbon footprint from manufacturing and transportation
- Overextraction of natural resources

Choosing to want not aligns with sustainable living and helps combat climate change.

Practical Ways to Embrace Want Not

1. Cultivate Mindfulness and Self-Awareness

Begin by paying attention to your desires and impulses. Ask yourself:

- Do I truly need this?
- Will this purchase add lasting value to my life?
- Is this desire driven by external influences or genuine needs?

Practicing mindfulness can help you distinguish between fleeting wants and meaningful needs.

2. Declutter and Simplify

A cluttered environment often reflects a cluttered mind. To foster a want not attitude:

- Declutter your living space regularly.
- Keep only items that serve a purpose or bring joy.
- Practice minimalism to reduce the desire for accumulating possessions.

3. Create a Budget and Prioritize Needs

Financial discipline supports the want not mindset by:

- Listing essential expenses and savings goals.
- Distinguishing between needs and wants when making purchases.
- Implementing a cooling-off period before spontaneous buys.

4. Practice Gratitude

Gratitude shifts focus from what you lack to what you have. Techniques include:

- Keeping a gratitude journal.
- Regularly reflecting on your blessings.
- Expressing appreciation to others.

This practice reduces the craving for more material possessions.

5. Adopt Sustainable and Ethical Consumption

Choosing eco-friendly products, supporting local businesses, and reducing waste align with want not principles, promoting:

- Environmental conservation
- Ethical labor practices
- Personal satisfaction from meaningful purchases

Benefits of Living with Want Not

1. Financial Stability and Savings

By limiting unnecessary spending, you can:

- Reduce debt
- Increase savings
- Achieve financial goals faster

This financial freedom provides peace of mind and opportunities for experiences over possessions.

2. Improved Mental and Emotional Well-Being

A want not lifestyle fosters:

- Reduced stress caused by material pursuits
- Greater contentment and inner peace
- Enhanced resilience to societal pressures

3. Environmental Impact

Less consumption leads to:

- Lower carbon emissions
- Reduced resource depletion
- A smaller ecological footprint

Living sustainably benefits not only the planet but also future generations.

4. Strengthened Relationships

Focusing less on material possessions shifts attention toward:

- Building meaningful connections
- Sharing experiences
- Valuing quality time over things

This can lead to more fulfilling personal relationships.

Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Overcoming Society's Materialist Culture

It can be difficult to resist societal pressures to acquire more. Strategies include:

- Setting clear personal boundaries
- Following minimalist influencers or communities
- Educating yourself about the impacts of consumerism

Dealing with Internal Desires and Impulses

Internal urges can be strong. To manage them:

- Practice mindfulness meditation
- Delay gratification by waiting 24 hours before making a purchase
- Focus on experiences rather than possessions

Building a Supportive Environment

Surround yourself with like-minded individuals who value simplicity and sustainability to reinforce your want not lifestyle.

Conclusion: Embracing Want Not for a Better Life

Adopting a want not mindset is a powerful way to foster contentment, reduce stress, and contribute positively to the environment. It encourages individuals to evaluate their desires consciously, prioritize needs over wants, and cultivate gratitude for what they already possess. While societal pressures can be challenging to navigate, the benefits—financial stability, mental well-being, environmental sustainability, and stronger relationships—make the effort worthwhile. Living with less does not mean sacrificing happiness; instead, it often leads to richer, more meaningful experiences rooted in authenticity and purpose. Embrace want not as a guiding principle to create a more balanced, sustainable, and fulfilling life.

Want Not: An In-Depth Exploration of the Philosophy, History, and Modern Implications

Introduction: Understanding "Want Not"

The phrase "Want Not" carries a rich historical and philosophical significance that extends far beyond its simple wording. Often associated with ideals of contentment, sufficiency, and moral virtue, "want not" encapsulates a worldview that emphasizes moderation and gratitude over excess and greed. This concept has resonated across cultures and eras, inspiring movements toward sustainability, social equity, and personal fulfillment. In this article, we will explore the origins of "want not," its evolution through history, its philosophical underpinnings, and how it manifests in contemporary society.

Historical Context of "Want Not"

Origin and Etymology

The phrase "want not" finds its roots in Middle English, where "want" was used to mean "lack" or "be in need of." Over time, the phrase matured into an expression of sufficiency and contentment. Its earliest appearances are often found in moral and religious texts, emphasizing the virtue of not being overly desirous or greedy.

For example, in the Puritan and Christian traditions, "want not" was a call to spiritual contentment and moderation. These teachings promoted the idea that true happiness came from spiritual fulfillment rather than material possessions. The phrase also appeared in proverbs and maxims that advised individuals to be satisfied with what they had, avoiding unnecessary desire.

Historical Usage and Cultural Significance

Throughout history, "want not" has been a guiding principle in various societies:

- Medieval and Renaissance Europe: The concept of "want not" was intertwined with religious doctrine, emphasizing humility and charity. Monks and clergy often advocated for temperance and the avoidance of greed as a path to spiritual salvation.

- Enlightenment Era: Thinkers like Benjamin Franklin echoed similar sentiments, promoting frugality and self-control as virtues essential for personal and societal progress. Franklin's famous advice, "A penny saved is a penny earned," aligns with the ethos of "want not."

- Eastern Philosophies: In Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism, the idea of limiting desire to achieve harmony and enlightenment echoes the principles behind "want not." These traditions often advocate for simplicity and detachment from materialism.

- Modern Movements: The 20th and 21st centuries have seen a resurgence of "want not" ideals in movements promoting minimalism, sustainability, and anti-consumerism, emphasizing the importance of reducing unnecessary consumption for personal well-being and environmental health.

Philosophical Foundations of "Want Not"

Virtue Ethics and Moral Philosophy

At its core, "want not" aligns with virtue ethics, which emphasizes character traits like temperance, moderation, and self-control. Philosophers such as Aristotle argued that achieving eudaimonia (flourishing or true happiness) involves cultivating virtues that balance desires and passions.

In this context, "want not" is not about deprivation but about cultivating a balanced life where desires do not overpower reason or moral judgment. It advocates for a mindful approach to consumption, encouraging individuals to recognize their true needs versus fleeting wants.

Economic and Ethical Perspectives

From an economic perspective, "want not" challenges rampant consumerism and the pursuit of perpetual growth. It raises questions about the sustainability of modern capitalism, which often equates success with increasing material consumption.

Ethically, the principle of "want not" emphasizes social responsibility?reducing individual greed can help address issues like poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. It promotes a worldview where moderation in personal desires contributes to societal harmony and ecological balance.

Psychological Insights

Psychologically, research suggests that reducing unnecessary wants can lead to increased happiness and well-being. The hedonic treadmill?the tendency to quickly return to a baseline level of happiness after positive or negative events?indicates that accumulating possessions or desires does not produce lasting fulfillment. Adopting a "want not" attitude can foster gratitude, contentment, and resilience.

Modern Manifestations of "Want Not"

Minimalism and Simple Living

In recent years, minimalism has gained popularity as a lifestyle choice rooted in the principles of "want not." Minimalists seek to declutter their lives, focusing on quality over quantity, and eliminating non-essential possessions.

Key aspects include:

- Decluttering: Removing excess possessions to create a more organized and serene environment.
- Intentional Consumption: Purchasing only what is necessary or truly valuable, reducing impulse buying.
- Focus on Experiences: Prioritizing experiences over material goods to foster meaningful memories.

This movement underscores the belief that reducing wants enhances psychological well-being and environmental sustainability.

Sustainable and Ethical Consumerism

Modern debates about climate change and resource depletion have brought "want not" into the forefront of environmental discourse. Advocates encourage consumers to:

- Limit unnecessary consumption.

- Choose sustainable products.
- Support ethical brands.

By doing so, individuals can minimize their ecological footprint and promote a more equitable distribution of resources.

Anti-Consumerism and Cultural Critique

Some cultural critics view consumerism as a societal problem fueled by advertising and social pressures to constantly desire more. "Want not" becomes a critique of this cycle, urging people to resist superficial desires and seek fulfillment through non-material means.

Popular media and literature highlight the emptiness of material pursuits, advocating for a shift toward inner development, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.

Challenges and Criticisms of "Want Not"

While the philosophy of "want not" offers many benefits, it is not without challenges:

- Practicality: Critics argue that complete suppression of desires is unrealistic and potentially unhealthy, leading to dissatisfaction or deprivation.
- Cultural Differences: Some cultures emphasize community and collective well-being, where desires are considered natural and beneficial if aligned with social harmony.
- Economic Impact: Large-scale suppression of consumer wants could have adverse effects on economies dependent on consumption-driven growth.
- Psychological Risks: Excessive focus on contentment may risk fostering complacency or apathy, undermining motivation and innovation.

Moreover, critics emphasize that desires are complex and deeply embedded in human nature; thus, the goal should be mindful moderation rather than outright suppression.

Conclusion: The Continuing Relevance of "Want Not"

The phrase "want not" encapsulates a timeless ideal?striving for contentment and moderation amidst a world characterized by relentless desire and consumption. Its roots in religious, philosophical, and cultural traditions highlight its enduring importance as a moral compass guiding individuals toward a balanced life.

In contemporary society, where consumerism and environmental concerns intersect, embracing the principles of "want not" offers a pathway toward sustainability, personal fulfillment, and social harmony. While challenges remain in applying this philosophy universally, its core message encourages reflection on our desires and their impact on ourselves and the planet.

As we navigate an increasingly complex world, the call to "want not" reminds us that true richness lies not in excess but in appreciating what we have, cultivating gratitude, and living intentionally. Whether through minimalism, ethical consumption, or spiritual practice, the philosophy remains a vital tool for fostering a more mindful, equitable, and sustainable future.

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Note: This article aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of "want not," weaving historical context, philosophical foundations, and modern implications to foster a nuanced understanding of this enduring concept.

Question Answer What does 'want not' mean in modern usage? 'Want not' is an archaic phrase meaning 'do not desire' or 'do not lack.' In contemporary language, it can imply contentment with what one has or a refusal to desire more than necessary. How is 'want not' used in literature or poetry? In literature, 'want not' is often used to express sufficiency or absence of need, as in 'want not for anything,' meaning 'do not lack anything' or 'are fully satisfied.' Is 'want not' still relevant in modern conversations? While it's less common today, 'want not' appears in poetic or formal contexts and can be used to evoke an old-fashioned or literary tone, or to emphasize contentment. Can 'want not' be used in a philosophical sense? Yes, 'want not' can refer to the idea of contentment or absence of desire, aligning with philosophical concepts like Stoicism or Buddhist teachings on desire and attachment. Are there any famous quotes that include 'want not'? Yes, for example, 'Want not, want not,' is a phrase found in older texts emphasizing the virtue of being content and not longing for more. How can I incorporate 'want not' into my writing? Use 'want not' to evoke a poetic, classical, or

formal tone when describing contentment or sufficiency, such as 'He wanted not for anything in life.' What are common misconceptions about 'want not'? A common misconception is that 'want not' means 'do not want' in a negative sense; however, it historically implies 'lacking nothing' or being content. Is 'want not' associated with any particular historical period? Yes, 'want not' is primarily associated with older English, particularly from the 16th to 19th centuries, often found in poetic and religious texts. Can 'want not' be considered a synonym for 'content'? In certain contexts, yes. 'Want not' can imply being free from desire or want, aligning with feelings of contentment and sufficiency. Are there modern phrases similar to 'want not'? Modern equivalents include 'lacking nothing,' 'content,' or 'satisfied,' which convey similar ideas of absence of desire or sufficiency.

Related keywords: need, desire, lack, scarcity, insufficiency, deficiency, want, craving, yearning, absence

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