

Of action and the actor

Author : Swami Brahmailidananda

Categories : [Freedom and renunciation \(ch.18\)](#)

Date : April 10, 2015

MICHAEL DOUGLAS

CHARLIE SHEEN

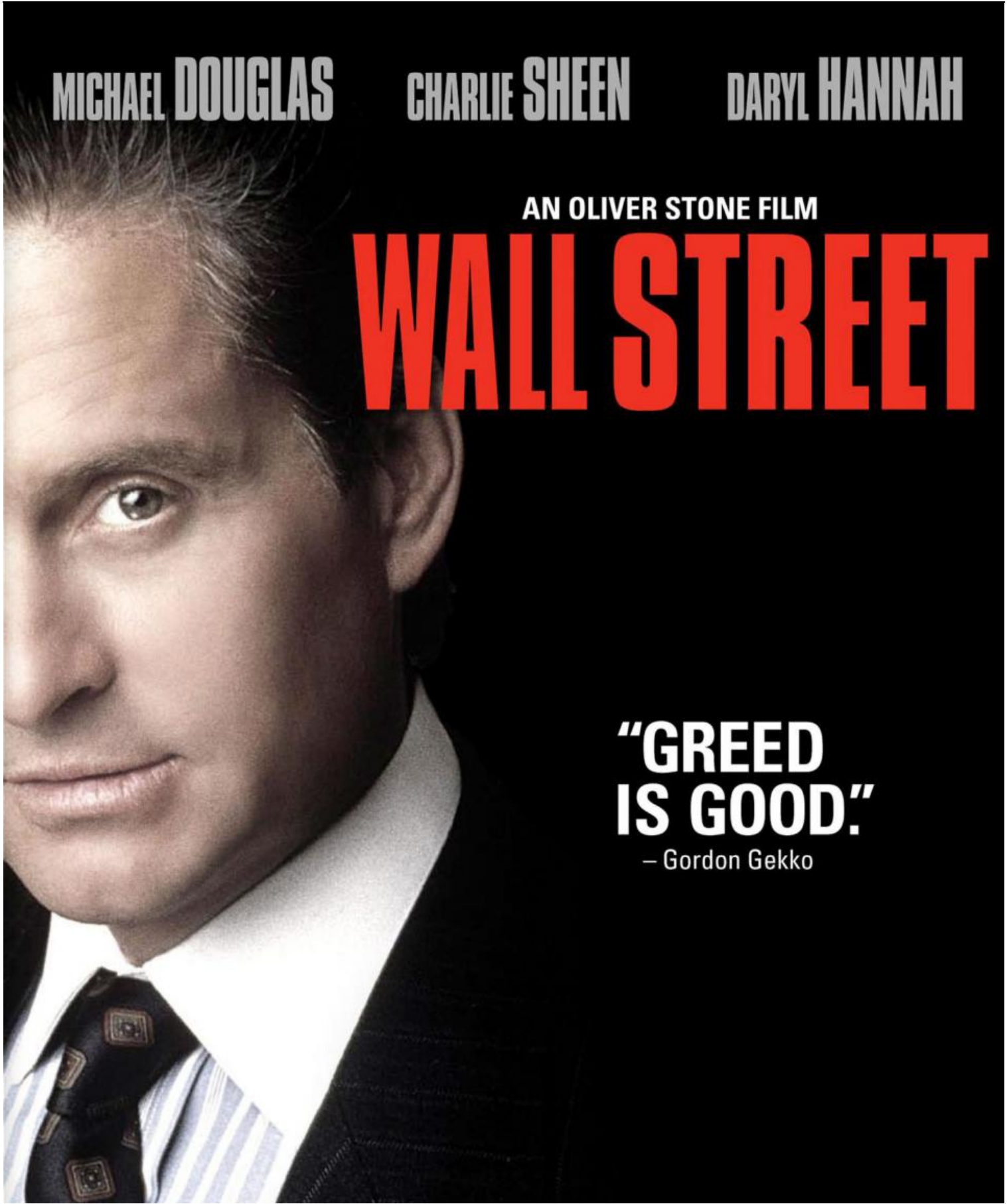
DARYL HANNAH

AN OLIVER STONE FILM

WALL STREET

**"GREED
IS GOOD."**

– Gordon Gekko





Rajasic Karta: Such a person can also be cruel and ruthless, and might not hesitate to trample over others to get what he wants.

After dealing with knowledge, Krishna speaks about action. Sattvic actions are those that are done with *karma yoga buddhi* and *Ishvara arpanam* (offering everything to the Lord) and *prasada buddhi* (taking everything as prasada from the Lord), *Rajasic* actions are done with a sense of *ahankara* or those done with longing and passion. Nothing wrong with that but these actions will be called *rajasic* and usually involve a lot of worry, headache, and, in extreme situations, could also result in coronary problems. The same action can be made *sattvic* when you do it with *karma yoga buddhi*. *Tamasic* actions are those done with delusion, without regarding the consequences of the action, without determining whether one is capable of doing it, without calculating the loss this action would involve—basically, these are actions done thoughtlessly.

After dealing with action, Krishna speaks about the doer, the *karta*. A *sattvic karta* (doer) is one who is not an egotist, has got high energy, will, and, most importantly, he has *karma yoga buddhi* and, therefore, is not swayed by success or failure. He definitely aims for success but is not swayed by it, and neither is he depressed by failure. In fact, a *karma yogi* is called a *sattvic karta*. A *rajasic karta* is a *raagi*, a passionate person longing for the fruit of his action. There is an element of greed in such a person's action. This is exemplified by Michael Douglas, the protagonist of a film called 'Wall Street', in which he declares 'Greed is good'. Such a person can also be cruel and ruthless, and might not hesitate to trample over others to get what he wants. Such a person is subject to elation and depression. A *tamasic karta* is vulgar, stubborn, cunning, wicked, heedless about the laws of society and steeped in ignorance.

A *rajasic karta* is a *raagi*, a passionate person longing for the fruit of his action. There is an element of

greed in such a person's action. This is exemplified by Michael Douglas, the protagonist of a film called 'Wall Street', in which he declares 'Greed is good'.

Let us look at it holistically. It is very easy to jump to the conclusion that *sattvic* knowledge will lead to *sattvic* action done by a *sattvic karta*. Remember, *sattvic* knowledge is the knowledge of Reality and it frees you from the question of action and doership. However, *sattvic* knowledge is not what is involved in *sattvic* action or in being a *sattvic karta*. But *rajasic* knowledge, the knowledge of differences, etc., if combined with an understanding of *Ishvara* and *karma yoga buddhi* will lead to *sattvic* action and make one a *sattvic karta*. Please note, this is not *sattvic* knowledge, it is not the knowledge of oneness, it is only the knowledge of *Ishvara*, and even if *Ishvara* is not fully understood but the attitude of *bhakti* is there, it is *sattvic* action. Therefore, a *sattvic karta* who does *sattvic* action and, therefore, grows will be able to get *sattvic* knowledge.

Take the example of a person who is full of desires, whose knowledge of the world is limited to science, economics, commerce, etc. This sort of person will be *rajasic* in his action. If he also wants to know the truth and if he introduces the understanding of God, even if it is not complete, and brings in *Ishvara arpanam buddhi* and *prasada buddhi*, his actions will automatically become more *sattvic* and *dharmic*. He will start caring for others and his actions, therefore, will become more *dharmic*. Therefore, as a *karta* who was *rajasic*, he will become more *sattvic* in nature. Then all that he has to do is take the final step of knowing the truth. If he knows the truth, he is free from doer-ship. So it's not a one-to-one equation. A *rajasic karta* with the knowledge of *Ishvara arpanam buddhi* and *prasada buddhi* will lead to *sattvic* actions and make him a *sattvic karta*. On the other hand, *rajasic* knowledge without *Ishvara arpanam buddhi* will lead to *rajasic* action and make him a *rajasic karta*, and *tamasic* knowledge will lead to *tamasic* action and make one a *tamasic karta*. When *Ishvara arpanam buddhi* is introduced in a *rajasic* action, the same knowledge can help you become become *sattvic*. The *sattvic* person studies the truth and understands the truth. The aim is not to become *sattvic*, the aim is to know the truth that 'I am free from the problem of *sattva*, *rajas*, and *tamas*', and for that one needs a *sattvic* mind.

Views – 203

Share

- [Click to share on Facebook \(Opens in new window\)](#)
- [Click to email this to a friend \(Opens in new window\)](#)
- [Click to share on Twitter \(Opens in new window\)](#)
- [Click to print \(Opens in new window\)](#)
- [Click to share on Google+ \(Opens in new window\)](#)
-