



**ADAM MAZEK**

Diaries

10.2019 - p. 1



# **AGGRESSION**

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# AGGRESSION

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The first post published in October 2019 was a text called "Aggression." In it, I wrote that I had never experienced violence on the streets of Warsaw. However, I sometimes wonder what I would do if someone physically attacked me. I hoped that I would simply manage to escape. Nevertheless, sometimes I fear that adrenaline would take over, and I would start actively defending myself. The truth is that we can meet a lot of personalities in the course of wandering related to street photography. Usually, people are indifferent to me, but I also come across people who are friendly, polite, and curious about my photographic activities. Some ask why I take pictures in such a mundane place or if I live in the area. It is possible to find harmless puzzlers of small drinkers who want to talk about the weather or tell their life stories. For the most part, however, people are relatively neutral about what I do. Most of them avoid me.

Nevertheless, it is a fact that while pursuing our passion for photography, we may also meet dangerous and aggressive people. They may be thieves or drunk and people under the influence of drugs, who will have no reason to attack us, but the lack of logic will not prevent them from being aggressive. As I mentioned, I have never met such people, but I know many bad things can happen on the streets. As a result, I sometimes wonder how I would react in a threatening situation. First, I always tell myself that running away is the best solution in dangerous situations. I hope to never experience such a situation, but running away is the best solution. Does this mean that I am a coward? I don't think so. It's just pure calculation, pragmatism. What will happen if I am forced to defend myself? This is the worst-case scenario; I see it as a last resort. I dislike aggression and physical fighting (even though I trained the Muay Thai for four months in 2005).

• Cover: post "Perspectives for my nation," p. 2-4: post "Aggression"

# AGGRESSION

So I hope I never experience an assault while taking pictures on the streets of Warsaw. The fact is that I always try to avoid strange-looking people. For example, if I see people drinking alcohol near a store or park, I try not to walk near them. Thinking about all this, I find that there are three basic steps to minimize the risk of experiencing aggression on the streets:

- 1) anticipation;
- 2) avoidance;
- 3) escape.







**HORROR  
SCENE**

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## **HORROR SCENE**

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It was a warm, sunny spring day (early April 2019). As I was leaving the office to take pictures, I didn't realize I was about to see a horror scene. I've mentioned in previous posts that I love walking through old and dilapidated houses. Not far from the office where I worked, on Bukowinska Street, there is an old, dilapidated building. Previously, there was a fence that prevented people from entering the property.

Nevertheless, the fence was probably dismantled during the winter. So I decided to go to the above hovel and see what was inside. On the front door threshold, I noticed that someone had deliberately left a dead cat with a terrible grimace on its muzzle, no doubt caused by pain. The sight was reminiscent of a scene straight out of a horror movie. I am convinced someone killed this poor cat and deliberately left the carcass there. Maybe someone wanted to scare someone away? If so, in my case, the terrifying goal was achieved. After the initial shock, I quickly moved away from the place. The stench of carrion that appeared in my nostrils was repulsive. Once I could no longer smell it, I wondered if I should have taken a picture of the poor cat. And you know what, my Dear Friend? I decided not to do it. I don't want to shock people like that. I indeed took some pictures that may resemble a human corpse, but the fact is that I never saw a dead person. Depicting dead animal bodies is not my goal either. One of the goals of my artistic activity is to play abstractly so that the viewer can appear to see a dead body.

To summarize: I have not photographed a dead cat, so I will never publish the title scene from horror movies. Nevertheless, I don't regret it at all. I am sorry that someone probably painfully put the animal to death.

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The following posts on my blog were bilingual versions of "Diaries." You can find their covers at the end of the current issue.

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**WHAT DO  
PEOPLE SEE  
IN MY  
PICTURES?**

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## WHAT DO PEOPLE SEE IN MY PICTURES?

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I wrote about how I sometimes wonder what people see in my pictures in a post titled "What do people see in my pictures?" What's the answer to the titled question? Generally speaking: they see what they want to see. For example, some people see human corpses in my pictures. Others see scenes from horror movies. The funniest thing is that I have never seen a dead person (only the carcass of a cat, as you can read about in the previous text). The truth is that I love taking pictures of trees. Why? I like to find pareidolic features in trees. Sometimes I manage to give trees erotic elements. In some of my photos, we can see trees similar to human legs. You can also see a tree with a bottle and a small penis placed between its legs. A tree as a penis? Why not? We will all see in photographs what we want to see. It is the imagination that plays a key role when it comes to interpreting photographs. Abstract thinking is the key. When we see something abstract or ambiguous, at first glance, we can't tell what we are actually seeing. We are confused because we can see two or more things simultaneously in one image. In previous posts, I mentioned that my photographs are one big prank, a trick, a game, both for me and the viewers. I love playing with interpretations of my photos. I also like to hear when people notice something different in my photos than I do myself. What I like most is when my photographs are compared to the paintings of Zdzislaw Beksinski. I want to emphasize today that I allow many interpretations to be added to my photos on many different levels. There are no right or wrong answers when it comes to my photographs. Each person sees in them what they want to see. And you, my Dear Friend, what do you see in my photos?



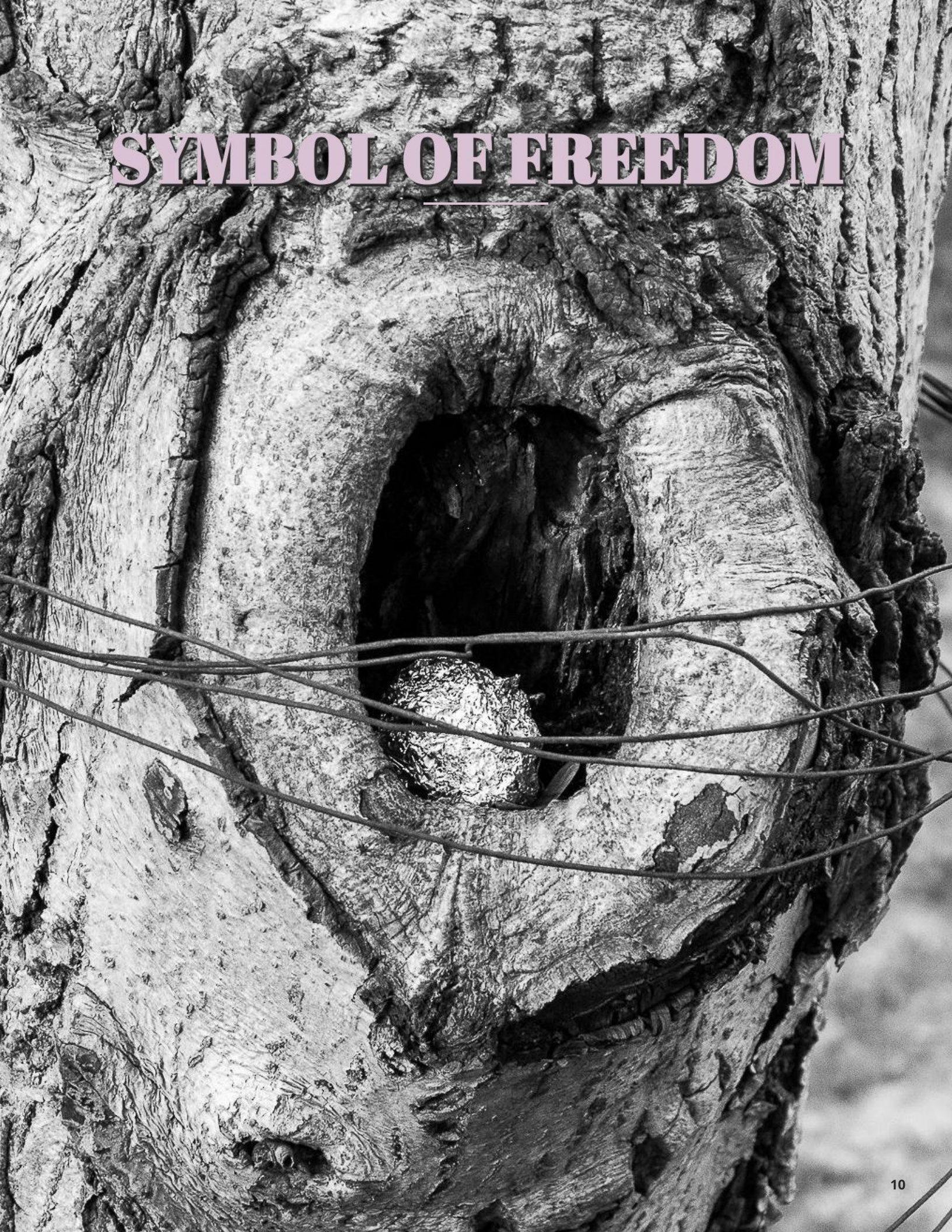


**WHAT DO  
PEOPLE SEE IN  
MY PICTURES?**

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# SYMBOL OF FREEDOM







## **SYMBOL OF FREEDOM**

**For many people, the symbol of freedom is a bird. For me, the synonym of liberty is a camera and sneakers. I am not joking when I write that my independence is the ability to go on foot in all possible world directions. Putting on comfortable shoes and photographing my surroundings symbolizes sovereignty for me. Walking is the essence of life. It is only up to us which path we take. If we get tired, we can sit on a bench in the shade of a tree, contemplating our surroundings while sipping water. During the warmer seasons, I usually carry a book with me to read. The fact is that whether walking or resting, I can analyze and contemplate many issues, including life and death, all the time. For me, walking is a cleansing of the soul and mind. With comfortable sneakers and clothes, we can wander wherever we want, at any time of the day. We can enjoy the most minor and most trivial elements of our surroundings.**

- *p 12: post "Symbol Of Freedom"*





## **SYMBOL OF FREEDOM**

**The ability to create is also synonymous with freedom. I don't like politics and don't want to write about it on my blog. Nevertheless, suppose a new law was introduced related to restrictions on walking and taking pictures in public places. In that case, it would signal it is time to move to another country. I would feel that my freedom had been taken away. The ability to create, no matter what we make (within the limits of the law), is the foundation of a happy, free life for me. I hope, my Dear Friend, that I have explained why the camera and sneakers are symbols of freedom for me. Without walking and taking pictures, my soul would undoubtedly begin to die. And what is a symbol of freedom for you?**



# **PERSPECTIVES FOR MY NATION**

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## **PERSPECTIVES FOR MY NATION**

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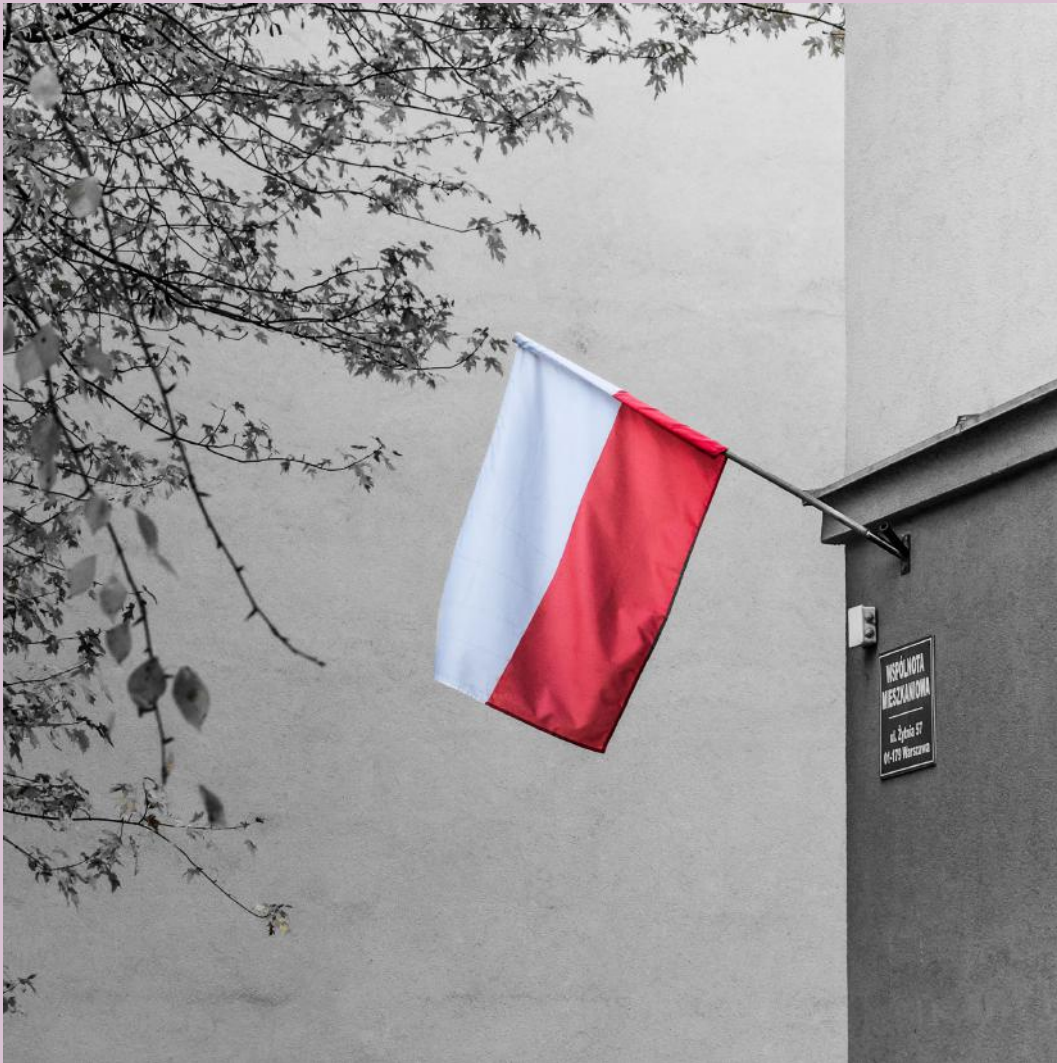
In another post, I wrote about my nation's perspectives. I already wrote in a previous post that we Poles have never before in our history experienced such prosperity as we have now. We indeed had a "Polish Golden Age" in the 16th century. I will write about it briefly. In the middle of the century above, the Polish-Lithuanian state covered almost ~1.1 million km<sup>2</sup> (~425,000 mi<sup>2</sup>). Today the area of my homeland is equal to ~325 thousand km<sup>2</sup> (~125 thousand mi<sup>2</sup>). The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (the official name of the 16th-century country) was inhabited by about 11 million people. Interestingly, Poles did not make up the majority of the population. There were more Ruthenians. Other minorities living in the former Republic were Lithuanians, Latvians, Germans, and Jews. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was one of the largest (along with Russia and the Ottoman Empire) European states. Poland was a political, military, economic, and cultural power. It was a major supplier of timber and agricultural products to Western European countries. The status and economic position of modern Poland is increasingly dominant on a regional scale, i.e., in Central and Eastern Europe. This fact is influenced by many issues. Perhaps I will develop this theme in the future. I feel that today's geopolitical condition in Poland is the best situation for my country since the aforementioned 16th century. I hope that, as a nation, we will maintain this status for as long as possible. The truth is that all the countries that have lived through times of greatness have done so through hard work. It was the same with the Greeks in ancient times, the Italians during the Renaissance, and the Americans in the 20th and 21st centuries. The moon landing was undoubtedly a symbolic sealing of their global hegemony. Only when individuals and entire communities believe in themselves can positive changes happen. I, in short, believe in myself. I would like my artwork to become a cultural symbol of 21st-century Poland, a country that is thriving both economically and militarily. The fact is that if the prospects and circumstances for the overall development of a nation become favorable, then the talents of geniuses can blossom in these countries.



# PERSPECTIVES FOR MY NATION

I believe that the times of prosperity that have come in Poland are the work of all professionally active people. I myself also contribute my share to this success. Nevertheless, I hope to make Poland famous in the world of broadly understood art and culture. To sum up: I believe that the prospects for Poles are enlightened. I wonder what the situation is like for you, my Dear Friend? Do you aspire to become someone special for yourself, your loved ones, the communities in which you live, and, in a larger perspective, for the entire history of humanity?

- Post „*Perspectives for my nation*”





## **NUMBERS AS A SAVIOR AND CURSE**

I wrote about the fact that, in my opinion, numbers can be both our blessing, savior, and curse in a post titled. "Numbers as a savior and curse." When can numbers be our blessing? For example, in science in the broadest sense and in technological progress. In short: without mathematics, we would not have flown to the moon. Numbers are a crucial component, often in an abstract way, of almost all aspects of our lives. Numbers are everywhere - without them, we would not use modern technologies every day. Mathematics is the foundation of virtually every progress and development. Without it, we would still be living in caves. So why can numbers also be our curse? Let me explain it to you, my Dear Friend. Each of us quite often thinks about money. Amounts are an integral and essential part of finances. It seems to me that many people are somewhat slaves to money.

- *Post „Numbers as a savior and curse“*





## NUMBERS AS A SAVIOR AND CURSE

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Greed and the mindless lust for money have been a curse for all mankind since money became an integral part of economics. Does this mean that wealth multiplication is terrible? Of course not. There is nothing wrong with being rich. So why can numbers also be our curse? It seems to me that making money, multiplying wealth should not be an end in itself. As for my photography, I sometimes find that numbers can also be a trap for me. For example, when photographing on the streets of Warsaw, I sometimes (fortunately, not always!) analyze how many pictures I have already taken. At the beginning of my artistic path, I was happy when I took a hundred photos in one walk. Later, however, I realized that it's not the quantity of images that matters but their quality. I noticed there were walks during which I took less than a hundred photos. However, their quality was sometimes better than the photos I took during a hike that ended with one hundred and fifty images. Over time, I learned that I can't focus too much on the number of photos I took because it doesn't make much sense.

In conclusion, I encourage you, my Dear Friend, to observe and analyze the numbers surrounding you. However, remember not to become a slave to them. Numbers should help us and be our savior, not a curse. I recommend that you do not fall into the trap of earning for the sake of earning. Why? Simply because that's how you can spend your whole life and never be satisfied with how much you make because you can always add another zero on the back of the amount. It can be a never-ending process.

- *Str. 18: post „Horror Scene“*





**THE END**





ADAM MAZEK

Dzienniki — Październik 2017





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