

Subhashita 24. Desire.

Shri Adi Shankaracharya has written some beautiful stotras. One of them is the चर्पटपञ्जरी स्तोत्र। One of the verses describes Man's eternal greed:

अङ्गं गलितं, पलितं मुण्डं, दशनविहीनं जातं तुण्डम् ।
वृद्धो याति गृहीत्वा दण्डं, तदपि न मुञ्चति आशा पिण्डम् ॥

अङ्गं The body गलितं has decayed, पलितं has greyed मुण्डं head, दशन bite विहीनं absent जातं become तुण्डम् mouth.

वृद्धः The old man याति goes गृहीत्वा holding दण्डं stick, तदा अपि even then न does not मुञ्चति let go आशा desire पिण्डम् lump/mass.

The body has decayed and the head has greyed, (The teeth have all fallen...) the mouth is incapable of biting/chewing. The old man walks holding a stick (he is incapable of walking without support.) Yet he does not let go of his desires.
