

Mandy French Burkhead

Charity and Kindness

Greed and Envy were put to the test
Saint Martin offered a favor
“Whoever asks first gets his wish.
Whoever doesn’t, I will dish
Out double to him what the first one got.”
Greed wanted everything for himself
and would not go first—
Envy could not stand the thought
that greed would get more than he got.
Eventually a consensus was reached
Envy wished to lose an eye
and Greed lost twice.
In the end, both were blind.

Saint Martin then came upon
Greed and Envy’s enemies
Charity and Kindness.
Saint Martin put them also to the test
offering the same deal.
Charity, ever sacrificial,
offered to let Kindness choose second.
But Kindness could not stand the thought
of its brother having less than he got.
Neither could be bought.
Until dawn they gently conspired
neither willing to wish after the other
and Saint Martin left without bestowing a gift,
thinking to himself that
at least Greed and Envy had got
something for their lot.