

D29 Tom / Nigeria / Philosophy

Interaction partner(s): German student
Moment of enquiry: WS 01/02
Experience of difference: Ways of handling money

Tom, a Nigerian post-graduate philosophy student, and his German roommate Christian are going to the cafeteria. Suddenly Christian notices that his cafeteria card is not charged and asks Tom to borrow 3 Euros from him. Tom doesn't have a problem with that, he gives his friend the money and both go and eat together. When they are done, the German student goes immediately to the bank and withdraws money, so he can give it back to Tom. Tom is surprised. He was happy to give his friend the money, and he definitely doesn't want it back. But Christian insists and makes the Nigerian accept the money. Tom is disappointed and from now on, prefers to go to the cafeteria with other friends.

1. Why is Tom disappointed by his friend's behaviour? What could the gesture of helping out with money have meant to him?
2. Why does the German student insist on paying back the money?