

How Do You Look at Money?

I Was Just Thinking.....

....about money. We all think about money a lot in our world. Money has such a high profile you'd think it was the most important thing we could attain. Those who don't have money dream about winning the lottery. Those who are in our supposed middle class – the young, upwardly mobile money seekers (perhaps we could call them YUMMYS) – consistently look for ways to increase the income, the nest egg, the cash flow. Turn on the television, or open a newspaper or magazine, and you will see countless ads for IRAs, 401Ks, financial planners, financial managers, and investment companies. These ads are so prevalent, indeed, that we begin to feel we might as well not stay alive unless we are fully invested with a retirement plan and a heavy stock portfolio.

The rich will, quite often, proclaim that “money really isn't the issue. It's just not that important” which it isn't, of course, unless you don't have any. The super-rich go about creating charities, or, if they're young Hollywood, partying 'till they drop. They work at securing and secreting money, stashing it in ways and places we non-super-rich would never think of. If they deigned to speak to the likes of you and me, they would probably never even mention the M word.

In fact, money is just energy, like love or joy, anger or fear. Money is the dominant medium of energy exchange in our present culture, though this wasn't always the case. We could still be in the mode of trading buttons! That might not work with today's technology, though. I mean, how many buttons would it take to trade for a laptop? And what would the tradee do with all those buttons anyway?

Suppose for a moment we could look at money from a different perspective. Suppose we could re-structure our present global economic system in a way that would render money neutral, rather than having it occupy the position of our god as it does now. Suppose we could assign point values to all goods and services on a scale of 1 – 100. Thus, having your toilet break on a Friday afternoon at 3 PM might rate a point value of 30, while hiring a tutor for your child during a school semester might be worth 85 points. (You might re-consider the point value, however if the plumber said you had to wait until Wednesday!)

The folks who want more goods and services would need to produce more themselves, keeping in mind the point values, in order to equalize the energy exchange between themselves and what they want.

Those special talents in the world of the arts – since what comes down to us through the millennia is first and foremost the arts, whether pottery, drama, sculpture, painting music, or innovative changes – would collect points commensurate with the level of their

contributions. Wouldn't Beethoven, Rembrandt or Shakespeare be assigned more points than, say, Andy Warhol or Britney Spears?

This kind of system would allow us to re-think our priorities, and push the re-set button on our cultural direction.

Having said all that, and trusting that you, my reader, have expanded your view of money and value, I want to talk about ways you can work on increasing your money base even as you recognize the difference in value system. There are some tools you can use to alter your attitude about money as it applies to your own self-worth.

Because money in our culture equates to power, it can be thought of as a flowing river, one that can generate literal hydro-electric power, such as the Mississippi, or the Yangtze. Using that river as a visual, you can close your eyes, take three slow, deep breaths, and imagine the churning water as liquid gold. In that picture, let yourself 'see' the water/gold picking up speed as it runs toward you and then with an impact charges into you. Keep in mind that you control the speed and pressure of the golden water flow in this vision – either you retain your internal power or you give it away. That river can support you or drown you. If you hold your internal power with regard to the river of money, you will know your self-esteem is not tied to the all-present dollar/pounded/lire/yuan/peso. If you persist in giving your internal power to the money itself, you will find it much more difficult to bring the kind and amount of money you want to you. These understandings are the beginning of your attitude change and the

beginning of empowering yourself in order to create the money and the lifestyle you want.