**MONEY AND HAPPINESS**



1. **What real place may (or should) money hold in a human being’s life ?**

Nobody can honestly pretend that money is not important but it should not be considered as an end in itself. Money should be nothing but a medium for the exchange of goods, services and pleasures. Money should be earned and spent on what brings you pleasure and happiness. Money should not **be regarded** as a means to put pressure on others by leading them into temptation or by reducing them to utter destitution. Every man on earth should be given the opportunity to earn enough money to have a decent life and **afford** a few superfluous things. This capacity to provide oneself and one’s family with what is necessary for a happy life is linked to a notion of independence and dignity.

2. **What kind of excesses does the love of money lead to in our contemporary world ?**

The **part** played by money in our contemporary world is extremely important and greed for money leads to many evils. First, money **means** corruption. Some men will become servile, lose their dignity and do anything for money. Such love for money will endow the rich with extreme powers and rights. They will feel perfectly justified in exploiting other men so long as they find people who accept bribes to cover up their scandalous misbehaviour.

In our contemporary world success is often equated with money. That’s why some people strive and spend the whole of their lives piling up money only to realize one day that they have achieve nothing but solitude, that they have got old without enjoying life. In short they have wasted their lives, because having money but not finding time to spend it is ridiculous.

We live in a materialistic society and we are trained from our earliest years to become acquisitive. This materialistic outlook has seriously influenced education itself. Fewer and fewer people are interested in knowledge for its own sake. If it does not mean more money and higner salaries very few people indeed will bother to acquire more knowledge.

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I believe that money can’t buy you happiness. Sure, having a lot of money **gets rid of** the stress of financial insecurity. But real happiness can’t be bought by money...

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Many people dream of being rich. They think of all the things they can buy with money such as big houses, fancy cars, and long vacations. People make it their goal to get into a good college to get a good job and make a lot of money. With financial security, people think they have more time to spend relaxing and being happy. There are so many success stories of people going from “rags to riches” and people try to follow their footsteps and do the same thing. Basically, we all get this idea that being rich will guarantee happiness, but is it true?

While money can result in happiness, the process of gaining it hinders your relationships with others. You can also buy things with money and those objects will bring you temporary happiness, but eventually you will get bored of the object and the happiness of having it will go away. The American Dream is basically attained by getting a good education and then a **high-paying job**. But **is it really worth going** through all of that to hopefully be financially secure? By trying to **reach that goal**, people spend a lot of their time doing work. Lots of homework, projects, and essays in college, and then lots of overtime work when they get their job (workaholics). This usually results in having less time to spend with those who **care about** you. **Unlike** materialistic items, happiness from having strong relationships with others last longer.

Although being financially secure is one of the best things in the world, it won’t necessarily bring you happiness. Money is an important component of happiness, but money alone won’t suffice in bringing you the highest level of happiness possible. You also need to have good, solid relationships with your friends and family to maximize your level of happiness. All in all, money alone won’t bring you happiness, but if you can effectively manage your time and balance the amount of time you spend making money, and the amount of time you spend with your friends and family, that will bring you happiness.

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