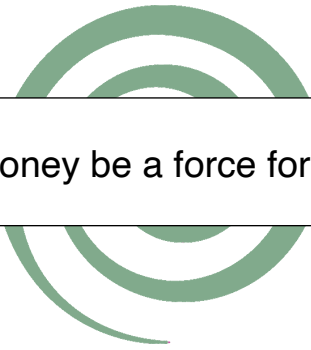


Visionary Society Presents

Quest Path for

MONEY



Can money be a force for good?

- ▶ What is the place of money in your life?
- ▶ . How much time should you spend getting and spending money?
- ▶ . How much should you sacrifice for material success?
- ▶ Can we build an economy that makes people happy?

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

"Those who spent their time earning superfluous money deserved some credit for not having committed suicide long ago. Their highest duty in life to accumulate money. Does any divinity stir within them? What are their destinies worth to them compared with money?"
Henry David Thoreau

"The merchant is presumed to act always selfishly
His work may be very necessary to the community; but the motive of it is understood to be wholly personal. The merchant's first object in all his dealings must be (the public believe) to get as much for himself, and leave as little to his neighbor (or customer) as possible... a buyer's function is to cheapen, and a seller's to cheat." John Ruskin

- ▶ In a free market economy the wishes of the consumer are manufactured by the producer.
- ▶ The economy produces unethical, unhealthy human beings
- ▶ Money promotes economic growth, competition, and short-term thinking.

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION?

“THERE IS NOT WEALTH BUT LIFE.

Life, including all its powers of love, and joy, and of admiration. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings; that man is richest who, having perfected the functions of his own life to the utmost, has also the widest helpful influence, both personal, and by means of his possessions, over the lives of others.” John Ruskin

“Money is not wealth: it is only a measure of wealth; the real wealth is people, communities, cultures, land, forests and rivers. Accountants therefore need to take all these elements into account. The bottom line has to include social and natural as well as financial loss and gain.” Satish Kumar

“Are you not ashamed that you give your attention to acquiring as much money as possible, and similarly with reputation and honor and give no attention to truth and understanding and the perfection of your soul?” Plato

PRACTICE

- ▶ Are you not ashamed that you give your attention to acquiring as much money as possible?
- ▶ Have you set a limit to the time you spend on getting and spending money? On the amount of money you want

INVITATION

- ▶ Do not escape
- ▶ Be willing to suffer.
- ▶ Fight for inner liberty.
- ▶ Resist every automatism
- ▶ No politics, nationalism, religion.
- ▶ No authority, no ideology. No philosophy. No teacher. No belief.
- ▶ No small talk, gossip, entertainment.

Resist all forms of external determinism, including biology, culture and ideology. Refuse to participate in anything that is false, illusory, idolatrous, illusion, trivial or degraded. Avoid artificial sources of mood changes. Do not glorify the tangential. Stop peer consciousness. Do not succumb to the pressure of the everyday. Conquer the strange lethargy that fortifies mere self.

REQUESTS TO BUSINESS

The product or service should satisfy genuine needs

Does it help develop healthy, meaningful lives? Does it appeal to greed, envy, or aggression? Does it prey on desire or fear? Or does it improve well-being and quality of life?

Pay staff a living wage. Distribute salaries & profits ethically. Part of profits should be used to improve the well-being of customers, not just to enrich owners and shareholders.

Prices should be fair, transparent, and in proportion to costs. They should be based on actual expenditures and costs and what the patient can pay. Do not take advantage of a captive audience.

Advertising should have respect for the real human needs and genuine interests of customers. Do not appeal to greed or lust. Do not lie, mislead, or manipulate. Do not use deceptive or manipulative sales techniques.

'Just Doing My Job' Isn't Enough!

1. Take account of the value of what you do in your job, including the service or product you provide.
2. Do not leave your personal values at the door!

Performing the requirements of a job isn't enough. We should try to understand the effects of what we do, even if that means risking our position.

- Always respond to the living beings before you.
- Be willing to recognize differences and make exceptions.
- Work for a cause that is good for human beings and the world!

To follow the program, to obey instructions, to pass the buck, to be uninvolved as a person in the needs of other persons, to heed no relevant human considerations, however vital: never to question the origin of an order or inquire as to its ultimate destination:: these are the standard duties of the bureaucrat: and these are the conditions under which Organization Man flourishes, a virtual automaton within a collective system of automation. Lewis Mumford

PRACTICE: WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO?

- Dysfunctional work, such as the military and manipulative advertising.
- Areas of obscene profit, such as higher education and healthcare.
- Work that compensates for dysfunction, such as police, security, therapy, and pharmaceuticals.
- Work that is currently dysfunctional, such as health insurance and banking.
- Creative functions, such as design, writing, art.
- Service providers, such as teachers, ministers, scientists, journalists and health care.
- Vital functions, such as food, shelter and utilities.

HARMFUL

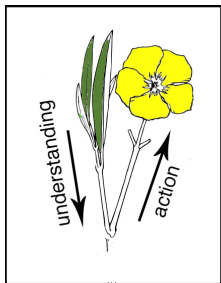
UNNECESSARY



What is Visionary Society?

Visionary Society is a way to turn your ideas about how to make the world better into action.

www.visionarysociety.org



*“To wisely live your life, you don't need to know much
Just remember two main rules for the beginning:
You better starve, than eat whatever
And better be alone, than with whoever.”
Omar Kayyum*