

Financial Security

By R. Reddy Sama

“Too many people spend money they have not earned, to buy things they don’t want, to impress people they don’t like.” – Will Rogers
“Happiness is not in the mere possession of money, it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt

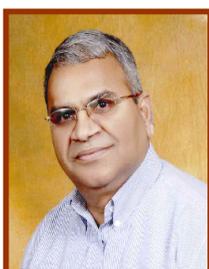
When humanity began, food and material resources were free to consume and share. But, as time went on, greed and desire for control enticed people to grab large tracts of land. Hoarding resources caused values to rise. This was the beginning of asset classes and the division of wealth. Eventually, after the barter system, came the monetary system. This has allowed some to amass great wealth, yet most people depend on an income source just so we can survive.

It is hard to grow and be happy, if our basic needs of food, clothes and shelter are not being met. Even though they are created using natural resources provided free-of-charge by the earth...in today’s society, these things typically require money. Ironically, money has no intrinsic value – it is simply a medium of exchange for humans to determine values. Like giant puppet strings, the monetary system forces most people to work for a wage-based living so they can afford necessities. Eventually, the concept of “Financial Security” was adopted by people, so we could live a less worrisome life. After all, it is hard to care about your community if you can’t afford your next meal.

A wise man once said that there are only two ways to live our life: *“the right way, or the wrong way”*. The right way is to give, share and love. The wrong way is to steal, exploit and hoard. When love becomes unimportant, money becomes important.

Chart of stages of human development by age.

| # | Description | Survival | Relationship | Self-esteem | Transformation | Internal Cohesion | Making a difference | Service |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Age | 1-7 | 8-14 | 15-21 | 22-28 | 29-35 | 36-42 | 43-49+ |
| 2 | Metaphor (Sama) | Human Chaos | Mineral World (Rock) | Plant World (Seed/Tree) | Animal World (Ice) | Human World (Water) | Divine World (Cloud) | Cosmic Harmony (Sky) |
| 3 | Life Requirements (Burkans) | Financial Security | Good Feelings | Self-Worth | Active Compassion | Creative Expression | Attentive Awareness | Constant Connectedness |
| 4 | Quality of Life (Judith) | Self-Preservation | Self-Gratification | Self-Definition | Self-Acceptance | Self-Expression | Self-Reflection | Self-Knowledge |
| 5 | Maturity Level (Sama) | Sense of Proportion | Sense of Consequence | Sense of Humor | Sense of Acceptance | Sense of Appreciation | Sense of Awareness | Sense of Connectedness |
| 6 | Movies (Carlino) | Amistad, Bambi, Schindler’s list | Willy Wonka and Chocolate Factory | Rocky, Brave Heart, The Lion King | Forrest Gump, Beloved, Always | Dead Poet’s Society, Network | Contact, Three Wishes | Gandhi, Ghost, E.T., Field of Dreams |
| 7 | Books (Carlino/Sama) | The Gift of Fear by G. Becher | Spontaneous Healing by A. Weil | The Seven Habits by S. Covey | Return to Love by M. Williamson | The Artist’s Way by J. Cameron | Seat of the Soul by G. Zukav | The Bhagavad Gita by Eknath Easwaran |



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