

Courage, Comfort & Complacency

Conversations about money in A.A. are rarely looked forward to, but when I served as a General Service Representative, I had the realization that it was my responsibility to adequately inform my group of the larger picture.

Over time my perspective and attitude towards money in A.A. has changed. I no longer see it terms of the material vs. the spiritual. For me, it's all spiritual. In and of itself, money is neither negative, nor positive: it's what I do with it that counts. Money is like a river that courses through my life—at times a steady stream, at other times a trickle—and while it courses through me, I have the opportunity to imprint upon it my priorities and values.

One of those opportunities is that hat. Now the hat comes in various guises, sometimes the hat, or basket, is literally a hat or basket at my home group, or another group I might be visiting. Other times, the hat comes as an opportunity to buy a Grapevine Gift Certificate for someone incarcerated or to set up a monthly personal contribution to our General Service Board or my local intergroup. Other times, it can come in the form of the pink can for Hospitals and Institutions. And then, there's the birthday plan when I can make a contribution to mark another year of the gifts of sobriety by sending a contribution to our General Service Board.

I mention these things because, over time, I have lost my fear of talking about money in A.A. Now, in the larger service of us all, it's my responsibility to spread awareness of the myriad ways there are to imbue that stream of money, when it flows through us, with meaning and value.

Step Twelve encourages me to practice these principles in all my affairs. At first annoyingly and now with gratitude, I know this means my *higher power's* money also. I am merely the temporary custodian of the money that flows through me.

So, today I have the courage to talk about money in A.A., in spite of the lure of comfort: surely, I'm giving enough, right? Well, my inventory (as always) reveals that that reasonable, yet insidious, thought is really just complacency in disguise. I need to get into action. It's time to tune up my personal contribution plan to our program of recovery so that it remains here, strong, for the legions of alcoholics yet to take their seats at our meetings.

Happy 7th Tradition Month!