

A Response to a response on an Ayn Rand 'Atlas Shrugged' excerpt:

The statement, "money as the end all be all" really cuts against what the entire meaning of this excerpt was about. I've spun myself in circles trying to articulate the point that I'm trying to make here as I think it is the most crucial, however, I'm feeling a failure here. Money is a way to carry the value you earn through your productiveness and give that value to another through their productiveness. With money your value can be transported anywhere. It is a way to share, enjoy, and expand on our productivities. It is not about amassing paper as your end all, it is about gaining the maximum value out of our productivities.

If you make the greatest sounding guitar in the entire world what is its value if no one can play the guitar? Nothing. If someone can take your guitar and play it to its maximum performance but no one likes or enjoys the sounds of the guitar, what is the value of the guitar? Only the value of the enjoyment of the person playing the guitar. However, if people are able to hear and understand the ability not only of the guitar player, but the beauty of the instrument, what is the value of that guitar? It is the combined value that all the people that hear the music draw from it. Value is driven by not only your productivity, but the value brought to others by your productivity. Also your value is expanded by the value given to it by others. Capitalism is an exponential value upon all of one's values.

Therefore, in a sense, the more 'money you make' or value you amass, the more value you are bringing to others. And the person that continues to 'make money' and increase their value, is only bringing in more value to others. It is only when you take money by force, not through a consent, that the equilibrium of value is broken. This is what government spending is; the taking of one's property or value without giving an equal value, maybe no value, and giving value to someone else only on the cause that they need some value.

In Heaven God may be the true arbiter of justice, however, I believe on earth, God has left man to free choice. Man can choose to honor value with value and let a truly free market work, letting man expand on the values we each create, in turn raising the standard of living for us all. Or, we can trade value for the perceived needs of society. We can take value and not trade it for other value, but give it away to someone who may not want or respect that value. If we give the music of the best guitar with the best guitar player to someone who hates the guitar, what have we given them? Nothing. We have stolen value and ruined it. If we have taken investment, from someone who knows how to invest it and create value, and given it to a drunkard who hates life, what have we given to society? Nothing. We've only stolen value. I choose to believe this is not what God intended.

Also, with respect to charity, it is the same. Do you not believe it worthy to trade value (your money or time), for the value you see in those that you can help? Charity is an instance where one can obtain more value out of what they receive than what they give away. If it is given with the intent that their will become a return on the investment. Not monetary, but in the value of the person you have given to. Again, value searching for value will be the only charity worth giving. Is it worth throwing money at charity only to let the charity recipient become or remain a worthless adult? No. But when value (money or time) is thrown at a person to give them a chance, and let them create value for both themselves and for others, it is not charity; it is a return on value for both you and that person. Neither could ever return the value you've given each other if you wanted.

Children are the perfect example of this. They are a major pain in the ass; they take a lot of your time, your value, but with nurturing and sometimes even without proper care they give back more than all the value in the world. You wouldn't trade all the money in the world for your children. They wouldn't trade all of the money in the world for you (except the teenage years). The value is shared, but exponential. No greater value can ever be gained but from your child; not money from them, but a gained value by their presence and the people who they become. Likewise, with good parenting, no greater value can ever be taught from your parents. With strong principles and a good mind, a child's value becomes infinite.

Lastly, society has shown man's capacity to rule other men; be it by any form of tyranny or slavery. The bottom line is that any type of taking value by force, whether a supposed value is given in return is irrelevant. Value is yours, and is to be given by your choice. Only you can

decide what its return value is to you. We each have our own exchange rates, and it differs from product to product. Therefore, any taking of my value, will not bring me a greater value than what I would have found for myself. Any value given to me which I have not earned, or given an equal value of my own, is stealing from another. I choose to believe this is not what God intended.

Yet history has shown tyranny and slavery. I choose to believe that man will inevitably choose freedom over enslavement, but the forces of evil will make this a stock market looking graph. Our current administration is an obstacle in this drift, and that is why we are awaking. We have and will continue to move in the way of freedom, not just the uprising this year, but in the past and future centuries. Freedom is going to win. Why? Man knows his value, and he is not going to accept lesser for it. I choose to believe this is what God does intend.