

So rather than becoming utterly frustrated, paralyzed with fear or engulfed in self-loathing if we try to ignore money, push it away, bash it, or otherwise degrade it in some way, we can embrace money for the presence and gift that it is. Rather than beating ourselves up for our failures to accumulate money as we crave it, hoard it or otherwise glorify it we can acknowledge money for the spiritual tool that it is. Then we can choose how to interact with it, use it as motivation to evolve and consciously build our relationship with it.

Money as Mirror

So let's talk about this relationship with money for a moment. For most of us, money is like a blind date that somehow turned into a *very* long-term relationship without ever learning anything about the other person. How much do we actually know about this stuff that has such a prominent role in our lives? How much are we willing to ask about this lifelong partner? How does money even work—not just in the physical world of business and economics, but inside of our own heads when we think about and use money?

Some have argued that money is energy. Some say it is only a symbol of exchange. Some say that we need to love it, others argue that loving it is the root of all evil. I have a slightly different approach.

I believe that money is a mirror, a powerful tool that can help us understand ourselves and how we relate to one another and our problems as well as a connector that can link us to our higher calling and doing good in the world. From a quantum physics point of view, we can probably change any problem in the blink of an eye, with a well structured, deeply felt, positive affirmation or question. But the reality is that we don't yet grasp or believe in the depth of our own power. Consequently, *our work then is learning how to change our belief structure* and how

to show up differently in our own day-to-day lives.

Perhaps we should review the beginning of money's own story. Most economics professors will tell us that money was invented to facilitate commerce. If we look more closely however, the earliest use of "money" was to foster human relationships! Beads, cows, wampum were all traded and gifted to honor rites of passage within the tribe, to appease the neighboring tribe so that they wouldn't eat you or to cement alliances with a marriage gift.

Anthropologists tell us that later when money was used for commerce, the bazaar and the marketplace were first and foremost forms of social connection, for meeting and gathering, and for learning important information about current events. Money was originally all about people, all about relationships and all about connection. Money, then, has always been the currency of connection. It still is, but as individuals and as cultures, we have conveniently forgotten how to use it in that way.

Money as a Relationship

Learning that money is primarily about relationships was a startling enough thought, but what my exploration eventually led me to was the idea that money is not only *about* relationships; *it is a relationship!* And our relationship with money needs the same attributes as any happy, healthy human relationship does—trust, respect, honor and love.

We will explore our own personal money relationship in great depth in Chapter 8, but the most powerful truth about our relationship with money is that it operates exactly like a human relationship—because it has the same purpose. *All relationships, whether with money, ourselves or other people are simply mirrors to illuminate our path to our greatness, to assist us through our obstacles, and to help us see the depth of our potential, our profound connection with life itself!*