

Money as Relationship

Who is the money in your life? Do you have a good relationship with them?

If money was in an intimate relationship with you, how would it describe you?

Which of your relationships does your relationship with money mirror?

Wealth Attunement

Money as Relationship

1

Everything exists by virtue of relationship

Everything is connected

Everything is Energy

2

Your relationship to something affects that thing

When you affect something it affects you back

3

You and money are in a relationship

How you relate to money will affect how it relates back to you

How you relate to money reflects how you relate to other
things

4

Your relationship to money mirrors other relationships

Your relationship with money reflects your relationship
with self

Money is a mirror

*We do not mind our not arriving anywhere nearly so much
as our not having any company on the way*

Frank Moore Colby

To love and be loved in return

Money is something we are in relationship with. Everything exists by virtue of relationship. The connection between everything is real. It is an energetic connection, which is now 'scientifically proven' in quantum physics, though it has been known by most ancient cultures for thousands of years.

If everything is connected, then this means not only that 'inanimate objects' should be regarded differently, but it also means that we can affect these objects and they can affect us back. If everything is connected, it means that the word 'relationship' can be used in relation to our car, computer, house, and also to money.

However, though we have gone into space and advanced technologically in many ways, the area of relationships is still largely uncharted terrain. We can see evidence of this all around us. So now take that fact, and add money, with all its negative clichés and parables, and all the fears and anxiety linked to it across time, and what do you get? Well, it's definitely not 'and they lived happily ever after'!

What do you say after you say hello?

Without a doubt, life and how we deal with it is best described as one long series of relationships. Yet we are never given any training in this most important area of our lives. Parents are expected to know instinctively how to relate to their children. Children are supposed to know how to relate to parents, teachers, authority, and their friends. It is assumed we know how to get on with our partners or spouses or lovers. No training is provided. No guidelines. No rules of communication, of conflict resolution, of loving. No outlines or parameters. Clearly, this method has not been

providing any of the tools we need to ensure we have good relationships.

So it is no wonder that our relationship with money is often not as great as it could be. In fact our relationship with money will reflect other relationships in our life. And as we change one, so they all change. Because how you do anything is how you do everything, and because everything is connected.

This is a key concept to reflect upon, which runs as a core theme throughout this book. You will treat money in the same way as you treat others you are in relationship with. If you do not respect your partner, for example, you will not respect money, and money will respond accordingly. If you are too possessive with it, money will, eventually, leave you. If you do not love money (desire works just as well), it will not come to you, as you will not attract it.

Of course this is only one of the many aspects which influence your relationship with money. The various aspects involved in your relationship with money are interwoven and should be looked at in unison; we separate them here only for ease of reference. The key is that everything is connected and, as such, everything affects everything else.

Mirror, mirror, on the wall ...

How you do anything is how you do everything. If you do not pay attention to money, you probably don't notice other things either – like the crack in the window, or your wife's new hairdo, or perhaps your aching knee. If you take pride in what you do and believe in excellence this will also be reflected in everything you do, no matter how trivial. That's just the way things are.

So money not only relates to us the way we relate to

it, but it also reflects to us the way we relate to the world. Often we do not want to see this reflection, so we keep away from money. Money raises all sorts of issues for us which we would rather ignore – it questions our priorities, our ethics, our beliefs, and our trust in life. And finally it reflects to us the biggest and most important relationship of our lives – the relationship with self, because it is this, most of all, that we reflect on to our relationship with money.

If we feel we aren't deserving, if we feel we are not good enough, if we are not expressing generosity ourselves, or if we believe that we are limited in what we can do and how we can express ourselves, then these qualities will be projected on to and reflected back to us from money.

... loves me, loves me not, loves me ...

A relationship is a two-way flow of energy, it's a communication, it is an exchange. When it comes to money, it's a little like (my variation of the famous) 'ask not what money can do for you, ask rather what you can do for money'. Think about that for a while. What does money want from you?

We think of money as that thing that we need to get, or find, or win, or earn. It's there, outside, and we need to somehow 'fetch it'. Once we find it, we want to own it and get it to do what we want. Sounds a lot like some relationships, doesn't it? We do not think money should have any expectations of us. Often we do not even like it very much, or we fear it, and yet we still expect it to come to us, just because we want it to. Sometimes we are not even too sure if we do want it to come to us, but we seek it anyway.

We spend most of our lives searching for money, and then

when we find it, we do not pay much attention to it. We do not care for it, or look after it. We don't even know much about what makes it tick. When it leaves us one day, we are very surprised.

Consider your relationship with money. Reflect on how you have been treating it, and ask yourself what would happen if you treated your lover or child or dog in the same way. It's quite a thought, isn't it? Also, compare how you treat money with how you treat the significant (and, more importantly, the less significant) others in your life. Also consider how others treat you.

There is only one journey. Going inside yourself

Rainer Maria Rilke

Now you may think this line of thinking is somewhat absurd, because after all what can money want from us? It's not a person, it has no needs. I remember giving a talk on money to a group of business people in Cape Town. I asked them to sit in pairs and 'talk to money'. One person would be money, and the other would simply be themselves. Each would take turns to start, and converse, allowing the discussion to emerge and flow naturally.

Some who have done this process have said that in the space of 10 to 15 minutes they learnt more about money than they had in their entire lives!

And then money said, 'Talk to me'

Anyway, a gentleman (who was in the role of 'money') was having problems with this process. He said, 'I am money. I have no emotions. I do not care. I have no feelings. Don't give me these stories about helping the poor and the orphans. I am money. I have no feelings. Why should I care?'

So I said to him in his role as ‘money’ and in my role as ‘me’, ‘Well, you know you need me, money. Without me, you are nothing. You are unformed energy, you are potential, nothing more. I can help you take form. I can help you to become something.’

Now this gentleman happened to be a scholar of the classics, and immediately his face lit up. ‘Oh,’ he said, ‘you can help me morph (this is another way of saying ‘take form’, which I only understood because I am Greek). I see ... Now I understand.’

Money needs us to give it form. Money needs us to turn it from an abstract nonentity into a live breathing reality. And to do that we need to enter into a relationship with it.

A relationship is a two-way process. There is a give and a take, then a take and a give. This is a continuous cycle – like we see in nature all around us. We give seeds to the earth, the earth gives us food. The rain falls into the ground and is given back into the clouds to fall again. Everything is part of a never-ending cycle. There is an apparent beginning and end, but once the cycle is in full swing it is hard to distinguish the one from the other.

The cycle is only disturbed when someone stops giving and only receives, or when someone stops receiving and just gives. Everything is connected, because everything is energy. We also know that the laws that govern nature are also the laws that govern us, as we are a part of nature. The hermetic laws say ‘as above so below, as below so above’.

So therefore our relationship with money cannot be merely a process of taking. We cannot see money only as something we get. We need to also look at what we give. And, more specifically, ...