

## Wealth and Happiness

Most people associate happiness or the feeling of being happy with money and wealth; how much money they have as compared to how much their neighbors or friends have. Getting more money gives people new opportunities to do things they cannot otherwise do; such as buying cars and houses, getting good education, helping friends or relatives or poor people, or providing financial support to organizations serving good causes. Because of the role it plays in societal life, money has become a major target that everyone tends to pursue with diligence. While most people pursue money and wealth through legal means; some resort to cheating and manipulation and even stealing to get more money and accumulate more wealth. What makes money particularly attractive is its association with power. Therefore, money is desired because of the things it can buy, the power it can gain, the people it can manipulate, and the social status the wealthy usually are able to attain.

However, money does not always bring happiness; it may even bring misery to those who have a lot of it. Most wealthy people in fact tend to be greedy and stingy and to have no true friends they can trust. They tend also to work harder than most other people to accumulate more wealth, and give less as they become wealthier. As a consequence, more money could bring misery rather than happiness. Meanwhile, neighbors and relatives of the wealthy, realizing how much less money they have compared to their neighbor or relative, are more likely to feel less happy, or poorer than before, even when their incomes increase and their living standards improve. Keeping an eye on what others have; and not on what they themselves miss having, and associating money with happiness is a way to perpetuate dissatisfaction, spread jealousy and envy in society, and make neighbors and friends less able to enjoy their relationships.

How one feels is more important than how one performs and how much material things he has; this is the major criteria of happiness.