

Your Investment Dilemma

If you were to purchase counterfeit diamonds but paid real diamond prices, would you throw those diamonds away once you learned the truth? This question can be quite useful for the purposes of self-knowledge.

Can you let them go?

They are all you have. And although it has been pointed out that they are worthless, you will not want to believe it. You will instead try to justify and bargain. You will do peculiar things to prove their worth. You will hold on to hope that one day they may gain in value, or turn out to be real after all. You will do anything in fact, not to let them go. As worthless as they are, they still represent *your* worth.

Oh how painful and yet wonderful the true answer to this question can be.

You have many counterfeit diamonds in your life—mainly your ideas, beliefs and identities. You have invested your whole life in them. You have worked very hard to justify their existence and convince the world that they are real. You have tried to sell them to others. And after everything you have invested in them, you are still not sure of them yourself. If you were, you would be at peace.

Who could possibly be at peace while carrying a worthless bounty, believing it to be a treasure? This is the very source of your worries and fear. Deep inside, unconsciously, you sense that your diamonds are false, but you are too afraid to see that. You believe they are your *life* so to see their true worth would be devastating.

Like every false notion, your beliefs are in constant need of affirmation and they will always be that way. This is why you are defensive and become upset when your ideas and identities are challenged. This is why you judge others for their beliefs. This is why you want others to believe exactly as you do.

Truth is nothing like that. It needs no support or affirmation. It has no interest in proving itself. It sees what is not true, and simply walks away without a fight. It is ever happy to walk toward Truth all by itself. Do you see the difference?

Though Truth has time and again shown you the falseness of your concepts, you have justified and bargained your way back to believing they were real. You have never connected the consequences to the false notions; you have simply blamed them on something else.

You have, in fact, *further* invested in your counterfeit ideas every time you have defended them or tried to pass them on to another. Instead of examining their true value, you have chosen to blindly invest more heavily in them, thinking that would make them real.

And now you have a tremendous problem. You have invested so much in your false ideas, beliefs and identities that you cannot fathom the idea of letting them go. In your mind, to drop them would be to lose everything you believe about yourself.

Because you have invested in nothing else, dropping these ideas seems equivalent to going completely broke.

Let me point out that if you've invested in false ideas, you are already broke—you just don't know it. Justification and illusion cannot bring real value to false ideas any more than they can to counterfeit jewels. And you don't need to take any one else's word to know that is true. So what will you do? Will you investigate?

Investigation is the start—if you are to begin.

Many will simply refuse to look. They will continue to invest in worthless treasures, unknowing of what they do. They will spend their energy defending false values. True Happiness will pass them by. They will be left to create a false happiness out of false ideas.

You ask so often how to know if you are making progress. Here is an answer:

If you are willing to take the most precious of your ideas and honestly examine their true authenticity, you are making progress. If there is even one that you hasten to protect, you have gone nowhere. This is simple to understand once you give up your painful attachment to stubbornness and pride.

There is no danger whatsoever in letting go of any idea in order to objectively examine it. You could take it back in an instant if you'd choose. There is only one fear that haunts you about giving up your ideas. That fear is that you will indeed discover their falseness and not want them back. You fear the emptiness you envision of losing your ideas and thus your identity. But you have it all wrong.

What you see as emptiness is actually *true* open-mindedness. A void left by the absence of false notions leaves room for the True Light. If you so much as attempt such a feat, you will have a new vision. For the first time you will actually be clear headed and able to see Truth—from near or far. While not attached to ideas, you will see through illusions that now bring pain.

You are mixed up because you cannot see the Truth. What you see instead—and what you prefer to see—are illusions. You cling, in fact, to these illusions as if they were real assets. They are nothing but thoughts. The thrills you get from them are false as well; evidenced by how quickly they turn to pain and disappointment.

You must see that no matter what value you place on ideas to bring you happiness that if they are false, what you gain from them will be false as well. It is up to you to investigate the real worth of your concepts before investing more in them. If you cannot see this, you will be left only to pretend.

If you are not ready, you will see no value in this. If pretending is still tolerable, you will find little reason to proceed in Truth. If, on the other hand, you are truly tired of your anxiety, fear and pain, you will sense the beauty in what is being revealed. You will be ready to let go of your precious counterfeit diamonds. You will happily leave

them by the roadside, with no concern for them whatsoever, because you will know they have no value. Their weight will no longer be your burden.

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