

Wealth

TFA makes the statement that wealth will be meaningless and inconsequential in the humanized society proposed in the book. Even if the people on this planet claim joint ownership of the planet, one person can claim ownership only of the space he occupies and the resources he consumes.

Although we speak of the one percent and the ninety-nine percent, those who accumulate wealth through their own efforts pose no danger to humanity by virtue of having a large fortune. Personal wealth harms no one until it is used to exploit, dominate, or subjugate others.

Gold

Artisans and craftsmen who buy gold need to receive the actual metal. Most of those who invest in gold for profit do not take possession of the metal, and some of them would not know how to confirm the metal as genuine if they had it. For these people, their fortune in gold consists of a number stored in a computer at their brokerage agency. Few people and few legitimate businesses have large stockpiles of gold, or even stockpiles of cash on hand in vaults. Even banks keep excess assets off site.

Wealth is a Number

More and more often, modern business transactions consist of entering numbers into computers. Wealth is not much more than a number on a ledger page. Stock purchases from a computerized brokerage agency might just as well be considered virtual stock because the buyers and sellers do not exchange anything tangible such as actual stock certificates.

Personal wealth is slightly more than a number in the modern world because wealth is backed by personal possessions. A person owns real property, for example, and the assessed market value of that property is a component of his personal wealth. If the real property is sold at its assessed value, there will be little change in the number that describes the person's personal wealth. The primary difference will be a switch in the basis of wealth from real property to cash. The number remains nearly the same after adjusting for various fees and taxes.

In a humanized society, personal wealth will not be secured by assets, so the number will become inconsequential. Natural resources will be consumed by those who need them without artificial claims of ownership. Natural resources will not be held hostage and hoarded by subjugators to inflate their claims of personal wealth. The only basis for new wealth will be those assets and values that a person creates with his own being.