

# Mo' Money: Mo' Problems?

A Polite Discourse on the Topic of Wealth

The *Record* has long pondered the validity of Puff Daddy's landmark 1997 assertion, "[It] Seems like the mo' money we come across / The mo' problems we see"<sup>1</sup>. At the time, his statement appeared irrefutable, but since then, much as changed: inflation has risen 1.2%; mankind has colonized the sun; and Puff Daddy has changed his name to P.Diddy/Pop Doody/Poop Dirty/Papaya Ditty-Pants. In the wake of these and other world developments, we must question our former conviction: does mo' money indeed cause mo' problems? To find out, the *Record* has animated Rich Uncle Pennybags, the lovable and portly CEO of Monopoly™, and re-animated Karl Marx, the founder of Communism, who will argue the merits and dangers of money with respect to the following topics.

## Religion

Pennybags: My priest says weekly donations to the collection plate are the only way to secure a place in Heaven.

Marx: Your priest is the opiate of the masses. Also, Jesus was poor. Also, I was born on May 5, 1818 in the city of Trier, Germany.

## Politics

Pennybags: Without money, the Louisiana Purchase could not have been purchased.

Marx: With all due respect, Pennybags, Louisiana is a shithole.

Jim Lehrer: Burn!

## Fashion

Pennybags: I have money. I also own the finest in designer women's clothing. I don't think that's a coincidence.

Marx: If you had thighs like these, you wouldn't need to hide them in Vera Wang evening gowns.

Jim Lehrer: Double-burn! Oh, shit!

## International Diplomacy

Pennybags: Okay, then, look to our very own United States of America, which has been able to establish military supremacy through its exorbitant defense spending.

Marx: I will say only this: the more weapons you carry, the slower you run.

## Romance

Marx: As the Beatles wrote so eloquently in their 1964 treatise on love, *A Hard Day's Night*, "Money can't buy me love."

Pennybags: True enough, but money can buy you things that will make women fall in love with you, such as flowers, dinner, and tranquilizers.

## The Music Industry

Pennybags: Recall Ludacris's single "Move, Bitch." Would the music video be as effective without Luda's use of Benzes, butts, and bling, all of which cost money?

Marx: Believe me, Sir, I appreciate *Word of Mouf* as much as the next dead white male, but I don't see why rappers couldn't flash more appropriate items, such as paper towels, pizza boxes, or terra cotta roofing tiles.

## Home Improvement

Marx: Money is a poor insulator. My people need houses, not the harsh bite of winter.

Pennybags: Oh yeah? Tell that to the warm, happy denizens of WarmHappyTown, the village I built entirely of Sacagawea coins. They are so happy and warm!

## Personal Hygiene

Pennybags: Throughout history, scientists and children have wondered: if we fashioned a grand piano entirely out of hundred dollar bills, and then rubbed our faces against it every night after supper, would it improve or worsen our skin complexion? Finally, we have an answer: dollar bills contain exfoliating agents that, if applied in the manner I have described, will restore your skin's healthy, glowing sheen.



Marx: Sir, I respectfully disagree. The Haves and Have-nots alike will surely attest: dollar bills are too rough for a man's tender complexion. The proletariat needs a new kind of skin care, something smoother, gentler: perhaps a cauliflower-lilac-borscht moisturizing emulsifier, or, instead, the healthy gloss afforded by a firm belief in democratic socialism. And so, in the spirit of revolution, I ask you: Have you seen these cheeks? [Points to cheeks.] You could lick butter off these cheeks!

## Board Game Strategy

Pennybags: Let me finish, then, with a final point: Monopoly™, *the most popular board game in history*, teaches children the value of sound fiscal management, preparing them for success in our free-market economy.

Marx: It is time to embrace a broader vision. Let the citizens of Atlantic City see that those on Baltic and those on Boardwalk are all paying rent to live in the same green houses and stay in the same red hotels! Imagine if the entire board were one Community Chest™, with equal Chance™ for all! What if you didn't have to pay for utilities or railroad transportation! What if "Go To Jail™" instead read "Go To a Well-Funded Public School?" WHAT IF EVERY SQUARE WERE FREE PARKING™?! ☹

<sup>1</sup> Daddy, Puff and Smalls, Christopher "Biggie". *Mo Money Mo Problems*. Bad Boy Records: New York. ©1997