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## In Gold We Trust

2008-04-27 16:56 星期日

Not a typo!

Every coin and note of the US dollars carries with it a national motto as “In God We Trust” , which simply means we trust in god.

China used to be a religious nation but now most people are not religious. The problem in China is not “In God We Trust”, but “In Gold We Trust.”



Not surprising to us, most people in the United States are religious. People believe men are created by God but they do not refuse the fact that ancient primates evolved over millions of years and became human beings. The point here is that the American religious system doesn't bring belief and material life into conflicts. Chinese culture looks down on money but values the spiritual happiness of leading a hermit and simple life. On the contrary, American religions and culture seldom restrict people for pursuing earthly delights.

A belief in God or any other religious system doesn't mean people are superstitious; God means values, attitudes and morals. People pray before dinners, listen to preaching in Sunday mornings while after these they still strive for life. Actually reflections on moral standards and behaviors are necessary for men, whether or not they believe in God.

People get paid for their efforts and pay for what they get. Nothing could be more attracting than money itself in a capitalism world where market determines everything, literally. A pursuit of happiness is liable to become a pursuit of money. A motto on money implies something like this: although we are entitled to money, power and sex, we are not to get them in immoral ways. We trust in God.

Traditional Chinese religious system, however, tries to persuade people into a pure spiritual life. The

pursuit of material well-being has been considered a sin, if not a crime, leaving itself far away from the realistic and practical life. The breakdown of traditional religious system leaves Chinese people in a religious vacuum. People in these days still pray to Buddha and God, not for a spiritual relief but for a better fortune and safety.

It could be a disaster for us if God becomes a safeguard, rather than a moral guideline, for people who are striving for money, power and sex.

We need a religious system or a culture that goes with our inalienable rights to life, property and the pursuit of happiness, which treats these efforts as right things and lead us to do these in a right way.

对当今的拜金主义有些想法，为了减少不必要的麻烦，就用英文写。本人英文颇为蹩脚，如有没有说清楚的地方，请多包涵。

中国人目前对金钱的过度追求，有特定的原因。中国人均资源极少，近百年的积贫积弱，让普通百姓的日子过起来相当不容易。在衣食饱暖还有问题的时候，所谓信仰、道德、修养这些问题还是提不上日程的。

一个国家，经济发展和人均收入水平的提高，始终是一个根本性的问题。贫穷不仅是最大的自然灾害，也是最大的人文灾害。

对于个人，收入是生活的根本保证。人的一生应该努力达到三个阶段，一是通过工作获得社会的认可，获得报酬，取得在社会上生存的资格和基本尊严。二是通过各种努力获得较高的收入，不断丰富个人生活，提高生活质量；三是通过创业获得足够的经济收入，实现个人意思的自主和社会生活中的主导权。中国人绝大多数还停留在第一阶段，有些人甚至连第一阶段都没达到。欧美发达国家，达到第二、第三阶段的人的比例要比我们高得多。

其实很多事说穿了还是钱的问题。

钱不是问题，问题是没钱。

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