

SERIES D: Topic 6

Crafting Abundance

The more resources you have at your disposal, the more you can accomplish with your capabilities. The more capable you are, the easier it is for you to accumulate wealth in all forms.

> **Your wealth is far more than your monetary assets such as money and possessions. It also includes your knowledge, capabilities, explanations, relationships, ethics, advantages and experiences.**

Thoughts, just like money, are assets. The right thoughts attract good people and creativity into your life and increase your advantages, capabilities and options.

Those who make the most of their existence use their wealth to earn, learn, bond, and help others. They make everything they do produce lasting value, and they reinvest what they receive in new things of lasting value. Ideally they invest some of their assets in things that will increase in value, where little of their personal effort is required, such as stocks, bonds, property, ideas and the futures of others. Do you remember Alexandra's lemonade stand? Her idea continues to raise money for kids with cancer, even though she has been gone for years.

When you have your life crafted properly, the more of your abundance you use, the more it produces. You gain wealth by putting yourself in situations where you can learn and benefit from using your assets and capabilities to help others. You lose it when you are down on yourself, negative or unappreciative, or you stop crafting. Abundance enables you to experience the exhilaration of fulfillment and of performing near the limit of your capabilities.

Like everyone else, you have needs you must work toward fulfilling to be happy: to be free, to have knowledge, to be in control, to understand how things work, to own things, to do things, to be religious or spiritual, to be involved socially, to have close relationships, to be quiet or to be ambitious. But take care: Whenever you allow any one of your needs to become too strong, it diminishes the others; and the overall abundance of your life shrinks because it gets out of balance.

Wealth creation, in all its forms, requires long-term planning. It produces the pleasure of accomplishment, which stays with you always. It is far more satisfying than the temporary pleasure of immediate gratification, which has to be recreated over and over.

Good judgment in investing and personal finances requires a lot of thought over time. Read everything you can get your hands on, and from as many sources as possible. Start now. Here are two excellent resources:

> You can set out to get a job or to get wealthy. Learn the difference in the book *Rich Dad Poor Dad* (Robert Kiyosaki, www.richdad.com).
>
> For investing and personal finances, go to www.daveramsey.com.



ASK YOURSELF

Have I ever considered accumulating wealth in any form?

What's the most important thing I can start accumulating right away?

Of all the things I can do, which has the most growth potential?