

From: Madars Virza <[REDACTED]>
To: "jeffrey E." <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Cc: Steve Bannon <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: For Steve

Date: Tue, 27 Mar 2018 23:50:20 +0000

Attachments: The_Logic_of_Gift.pdf

Thank you, Jeffrey! This Sunday was magical and I'd be very much interested to be in the school :)

An interesting question we discussed -- should giving a "hugs"/"endorsements"/etc require getting a counter-endorsement of some sort. It seems to me that answer is no -- market dynamics would make it easier for external actors to rack up a lot of reputation (can clearly imagine, say, Correct The Record doing so).

There's a captivating interview with Shimon Peres (given just weeks before he passed) where he talks about giving vs exchanging (<http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-news-and-politics/214621/one-last-interview>):

"Why is America great?" I asked him. "Because they were givers. Why is Europe in trouble? Because they are takers. America is giving; people think it's because they are generous. I think it's because they are wise. If you give, you create friends. The most beneficial investment is making friends.

"America had the guts to take the Marshall Plan, a huge piece of their GNP that they gave to this dying Europe. And in this way, they have shown that this is the best investment in the world."

There is no European country that didn't take an empire. The French and the British, the Portuguese, everybody. And what happened? They were thrown out of there and left with nothing. England, the greatest empire from sunrise to sunset, all the oceans, and the nice, nonviolent Indians threw them out and left them with nothing but three small islands, they don't know what to do with them.

"Believe me," I told Putin, "enemies and animosity are the greatest waste in life. You are investing in a foolish thing."

A friend wrote an article contrasting the logics of exchange, duty, and giving. It has quite a Thomistic penumbra (and I'm attaching it here):

The logic of exchange and the logic of duty provide a *predictable and enforceable* response that an agent is aware of and can rely upon. On the contrary, as Polo (1987) shrewdly points out, the unconditional giver relies on *hope*. The giver gives with a respect for the other's freedom, and at the same time, she is confident of the possibilities in the receiver. There is an inner and necessary risk contained in the logic of gift, for although the giver seeks to promote a particular good, the response is never certain.

Zamagni (2008) has formulated this principle in the following terms: "I freely give you something so that you can give in turn, according to your abilities, to others or even me." When we give unconditionally and for the good of the other, and the receiver *perceives* this giving as honestly disinterested, this can uniquely inspire a form of gratitude that leads the receiver to want to give in the same way: freely and in an uncalculated way.

At this point, the logic of giving reveals its great potentialities as it provides the *suitable conditions* for the flourishing of a kind of interpersonal relationship in which an unconditional desire to promote a good

beyond oneself creates a bond of mutual trust and gratitude. What emerges from these ties is *priceless*, as it cannot be bought or demanded as obligatory.

Of course, because it is priceless, unpredictable, and unenforceable, there might be other benefits beyond "mere" bonds of mutual trust and gratitude ;-)

An interesting historical footnote -- "my friend endorses X, so I transitively trust X" recursive calculations of trust/reputation/hugs/etc are also embedded in Australia's voting system, and parties there are striking all kinds of preference deals. Assange tried to game it too, misjudged his constituency, and it very much backfired: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-21/wikileaks-senate-candidate-leslie-cannold-quits/4903084> .

I'm in New York quite often this semester and would be very happy to meet up if you have time :-)

Thanks again,

Madars

On Sun, Mar 25, 2018 at 8:48 PM, jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

steve madars madars steve
students in the " school of the right" :) . can pay tuition. . get credits. students can exchange " knowledge
" tax free under the school umbrella , knowledge can take many forms . similar to coins :)

On Sat, Mar 24, 2018 at 5:31 PM, Madars Virza <[REDACTED]> wrote:

There is 11am Mass (a very reverend Ordinary Form Mass, can recommend) a block or two from Martin Nowak's lab: <https://stpaulparish.org/>

They also have boys choir, and I'm sure the Palm Sunday (i.e. tomorrow's) Mass will be great.

Another great one is 11am at St. Clement's in Boston: <https://www.omvusa.org/st-clement-shrine/> . St. Clement's is the perpetual adoration shrine for the archdiocese and has OMV seminary attached to it so again very orthodox.

Regarding extraordinary form, *the* Latin Mass parish in Boston area is Mary Immaculate of Lourdes <https://maryimmaculateoflourdes.org/en/> -- they have daily EF Mass (just like Holy Innocents in NYC).

I presume Steve might be going to anticipatory Mass tonight but maybe the above is helpful :-)

Madars

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