

# What are we even doing with internet money?

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XMR: 49sT66dJqAmerHGnk8y8JHDEQHdjfxjMxirdrbrnLzUyHuArv5uTYAfLH2Z2jnzhT3YAFE5CQufKhWaVSmKTZE3LUbgdaJz  
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## Abstract

Plato argued that knowledge is virtue<sup>1</sup>. In this sense, we can extrapolate this idea to other aspects of life, most notably, government and power. Knowledge can be used interchangeably with logic. Logic is what gave rise to complex government systems (nomos) and allowed humans to govern themselves in a different way than the rule of nature (physis). Given this, cryptocurrencies can be a way to logically subdue power so that it is no longer completely aligned to the rule of nature.

Concentration of power leads to collapse. It is no different than a cloud that builds up so much moisture that it needs to rain. For example, concentrated money (in this case used interchangeable with power) pulls resources from those who absolutely need them. When this happens, those that need those resources become desperate and they take what they need to survive. Pushed to limits, we will turn to anarchy as the old methodology does not satisfy the needs of the weak and in the absence of a viable system; we rely on the default system – natural anarchy.

Anarchy is the rule of nature. It is what does not guide a raven to destroy another raven if that raven were to have something that would stop its progeny and well-being. Without rule, we survive by clubbing and whomping each other only to have the strongest survive. This is not the rule of man. Logic is the rule of man. We use reason and with reason we make value based judgements as to what is good and what is bad. Why not anarchy? Because it is short sighted and does not see a bigger picture. What good is life without the ability to create beautiful art? When our animal instincts drive us and we can't even see our drive to "poetically dwell on this earth." We need to create beautiful things for any of this to have any meaning. We create beautiful plays, paintings, and songs that give us the ability to think further and broader and in new ways. Without this rise of complexity, we are merely animals.

Logic gave us the ability to rule ourselves. With it, we constrained our animalistic desires and brought forth something better. It is only in this beautiful thing that complexity emerges. What good is a complex system of government when you live in a shack, don't have very much food, and are worried about being constantly attacked? Further, would you even have any time to imagine a better system than the one you currently have? Rather than

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<sup>1</sup> Plato, et al. *Protagoras and Meno*. Penguin, 2005.

give in to our animalistic desires, we sacrificed parts of what we wanted (in the immediate) for a broader and better future. Logic brought us civilization and beautiful things.

### **What if logic could rule power?**

Power in and of itself is not a bad thing. It exists just as all things inherently exist. Power, in our sense, is having control over a situation. I cannot take what is yours if I have no power. In nature, the strong take what they believe is theirs. A raven does not care if it steals food from a weaker raven. We, unlike animals, do care because we have the rule of law. When we have a homicidal maniac with a knife that is about to attack another person, it is okay to stop that person from killing by use of power (example taken from Protagoras and Meno as an allusion to Logic and Virtue)<sup>2</sup>. We can call this power in the immediate.

Power can also exist in the future as potential power. If there could be a homicidal maniac that could kill a person, I could act in the immediate to secure life by having a gun. I am not shooting this gun at a person in the immediate. The potential for such act exists. Again, if I were to have a homicidal maniac who is threatening the life of another, my power in the immediate would be the power I placed there in the past i.e. the gun.

### **How does this relate to internet money?**

People are hoarding and manipulating power (money, currency, wealth) in a way that is unhealthy and can lead to anarchy. They do this by many ways. Any good read of “The Republic” will lay bare all the ways they can do this. Arts, music, laws, customs, ways – they can and will all be utilized for those people to have power in the immediate. Arts music and ways are power that is supplementary to the more important power = currency. They are used in a way that gives that person the ability to have more of it. Think of money in an abstract sense. Not actually holding it but what “it” is. “it” in this sense is unit of something that makes the user have a higher probability of progeny and well-being. That said, “it” becomes the most valuable thing in existence – more valuable than Gold, Bitcoin, Monero, Masari. “It” in this sense is life for ourselves and our progeny.

Now, what about that supplementary power? Our current money is but a mechanism to keep control. It is not based on logic, and if it is, it is a sorry attempt at it. I think it originated as a necessary attempt to allow for a free flowing of things that are necessary to live i.e. I trade you something that I have too much of for something you have too much of. Over time, I think that this balance became corrupted and in that way became illogical. Instead of having the fair, I have too much of this and you have too much of this, it became I’ll give you 100 pennies for just

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

one of your 100 dollar bills. Seems ridiculous, I know, but you have to consider that this actually happened in the 2007 financial crisis. All you had to do was control what people thought and they believed that those 100 pennies could be worth more than that measly 100 bill.

Given all of these points, I think we should come to the inevitable conclusion that people will corrupt systems in order to get more power if left to the illogical anarchistic state of nature (physis). Logic, however, is a difficult thing. It hurts us. Literally hurts us. Don't believe me, look up studies. Doing a math problem can cause real visceral pain<sup>3</sup>. However, we are thinking in the immediate and this can be dangerous. Let us do a simple mental exercise. If I give up something in the now i.e. lifting weights and feeling a bit of pain the next couple of days, I may reward myself in the future by being able to outrun the lion enough to get into a tree. This is no different from doing exercises to help your brain. Further, the more you do so, the more beautiful things you can experience. It is just difficult to do at first.

Logic can dictate how we rule ourselves and how we rule power. Just as democracy gave us a reasonable and measured approach to governance, logic based currency can do the same. You cannot argue with the absolute truths of math as you cannot change the absolute truths of math – there is no corruption. Just as gold does not corrupt, our systems can be made so they do not corrupt. Bitcoin was a first attempt to make something beautiful. It was a good attempt, but I fear it is already corrupted as a few addresses already control the majority of the coins in circulation. We need a smaller system to bring forward – one that has the ability to be open to more people and in a way that cannot be so easily corrupted i.e. tainting bitcoins for transactions, freezing known accounts, etc. Instead of this ecosystem, I argue that both Monero and Masari be those logic based systems on which we move forward into as they safeguard against many of the shortcomings of Bitcoin.

- *As long as the internet is alive, our collective hope is alive.*

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<sup>3</sup> Beilock and Lyons. "When Math Hurts: Math Anxiety Predicts Pain Network Activation in Anticipation of Doing Math." *PLOS ONE* (2012).