

## America's Perspective Of Its Dream

“The reason we have poverty is that we have no imagination. There are a great many people accumulating what they think is vast wealth, but it's only money. They don't know how to enjoy it, because they have no imagination.” ( Alan Watts). Without a method of using the wealth it has no purpose, the American Dream cannot be bound to such a fickle idea.

As people, not just Americans, everything that occurs, either happens to us or by us. People naturally separate themselves from the rest of the world because we believe it is logical. “I am not achieving the American Dream because it is not possible” is how we do such a thing. By claiming we have no way of achieving it, we stop climbing. People place obstacles in front of them and between their goal because excuses are easy. However there are those who are willing to start the journey of a thousand miles, to making it to the American Dream.

The American Dream has been consistently viewed as an unreachable goal for the common person. Only because of how it is viewed by said people, in the perspective of material or representative wealth. The American Dream is still readily available provided you look from a new angle, remove the obstacles you've placed in front of yourself, or take a view that may not be new, but forgotten.

The American People have made wealth an inherent part of the American dream for generations, ingraining the ideas that wealth is the American Dream. However the American Dream is readily accessible to any man, woman, or child, if money stops being a cornerstone in their idea of the American Dream. Not to say that one should forgo any material wealth, but to show that even without money they can be “... more fulfilled than the average vice-president

with a swimming pool.”(Zinsser). By helping their community, without a need for compensation they aren't lining their cars with gold and filling their wallets with money, but they are lining their community with a sense of togetherness and filling the holes they feel are created by money. Money does not mean happiness or success as it does not imply wealth; one can achieve the American dream without money. “ For the young, dropping out is often a way of dropping in.”(Zinsser). Times are changing, bringing with changes in the people and their goals. The American Dream is exactly that, a dream, dreams are subjective; but proper ideas and logic can be applied in certain ways to obtain a meaning. Money isn't a requirement and it begs the question of its origins.

The origins of money being melded into the American Dream can be traced back to 1781, where people of penury and sore affliction came to America. People will want money or resources regardless of how they were raised, but if one finds himself being cheated, they will go somewhere fair, or new where their “... labour is founded on the basis of nature, self-interest; can it want a stronger allurements?”(de Crèvecoeur). By setting a fair standard, America brought in people who might see that as a way, not only to get comfortable, but to get ahead of their peers and to hold that advantage. People don't have to push others out of the way to achieve the American Dream, it is not a race it is a journey on which people take many different turns. “If money becomes the goal, and it does when you work that way, you begin increasingly to confuse it with happiness.” (Alan Watts). It's not a matter of people being unhappy of how they live their lives, it's focusing on where they're living their lives and with what. Using this kind of thinking it can be assumed that people are naturally materialistic and are willing to take from others what they can and in doing so lower the others quality of life.

Over time, from small beginnings these ideas can spread and become ingrained into our culture like a stain on fabric.

“Most say they are in reasonably good health and have at least two cars, and they are able to take vacations.”(Wallechinsky). Wallechinsky goes on later to use a quote from a subject on the survey that says that “For most Americans, it’s still a dream - a pipe dream.”(Wallechinsky). These people are claiming that the American Dream is inaccessible, that it is a pipe dream, that only the naive would strive for. It is because of these ideas that people push themselves away from the American Dream, but the American Dream has been at a single point for as long as America has been. It is the people being changed, forcing our perspectives to skew as obstacles obscure the view like carnival mirrors, representing the whole in an incomplete way. However it is not impossible to undo what has been done over time.

As people change they can go around or remove the obstacles that once blocked their view of the American Dream. People, in time, will not worry of what they surround themselves with, where, and even with whom; so long as they can improve not just themselves, but the whole. As the generations pass on we cannot stop change in the people, as rocks smooth in the river so does the opposition.