

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.....only.....!

DEAR

Someone asked me if it was morally OK to send his children to a private school.....here goes.....

PREAMBLE.

Education is a commodity that can be bought and sold in the marketplace. The marketplace has been in existence ever since Mankind took his first steps on earth and provides each and every item (goods) or service that people need in order to live. If you are a buyer at the marketplace, it means you need something from the market and together with other buyers you form what is called **'the market demand'**. If you sell to the market, you are supplying one of the goods or services that other people demand. All sellers together form what is known as **'the market supply'**.

Every transaction that is made in the market is paid for by money, and because everybody needs money to live, **"the market will follow wherever the money goes"**. Generally, 'the market demand' which provides the money from the buyers, will determine which direction the market goes, or what goods and services are wanted. People will only spend money on what they need. They will not waste any precious money on what they don't need. The suppliers will always react quickly to any change in the market, as they earn money and survive in life on the basis of selling or supplying what the buyers want.

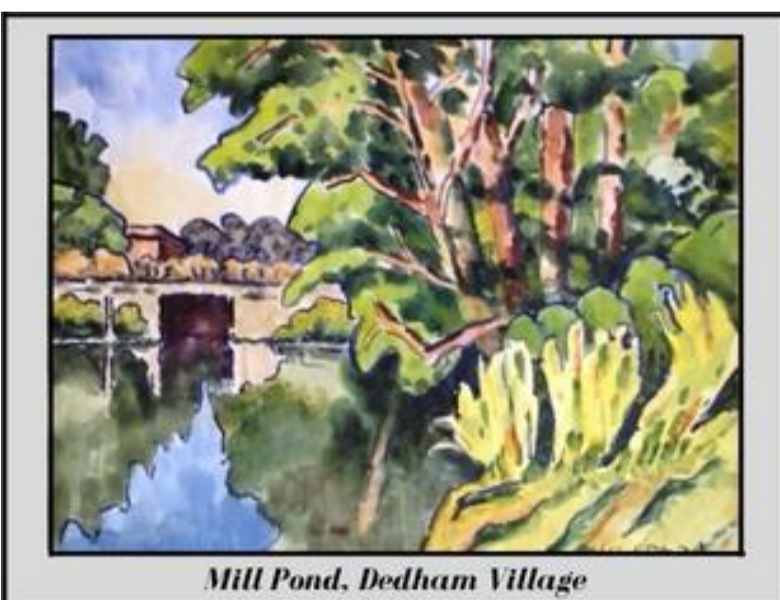
We are all part of "the market". We all need things to live, so we are all buyers, and we are also 'sellers', because we have a job which normally involves supplying goods or services that people want.

Because nature made us all different, some suppliers will be better than others, so the bad suppliers will die off and become poor while the better suppliers will survive and become rich.

That is one reason why, ever since the world began, some people are richer than others and can afford to buy better goods and services than those that are poor. That is the natural way human civilisation on earth has happened. It is a natural progression based on the basic laws of Creation, which are all about the survival of the fittest. **And "The Free Enterprise Market", which we have described above, works in exact parallel with the laws of Creation.**

Life on earth has always been about winners and losers. That 'game of life' provides "the meaning of life", with winning providing all the hopes and dreams and the losing providing the necessary opposite of fear. Therein is the zest or spice or Yin and Yang of life. Without the opposites, life would lose its meaning.

And that is why people over the ages have accepted their positions in life. As long as they have done their best to compete, they will have achieved some fulfilment, even if the losers achieve less than what the winners achieve. But all the way along the line, because of hope on the one side and fear on the other, both winners and losers are constantly trying, from the moment they wake up to when they go to bed, to do things as best as they can in order to go up their own ladder of life and make things better for themselves.

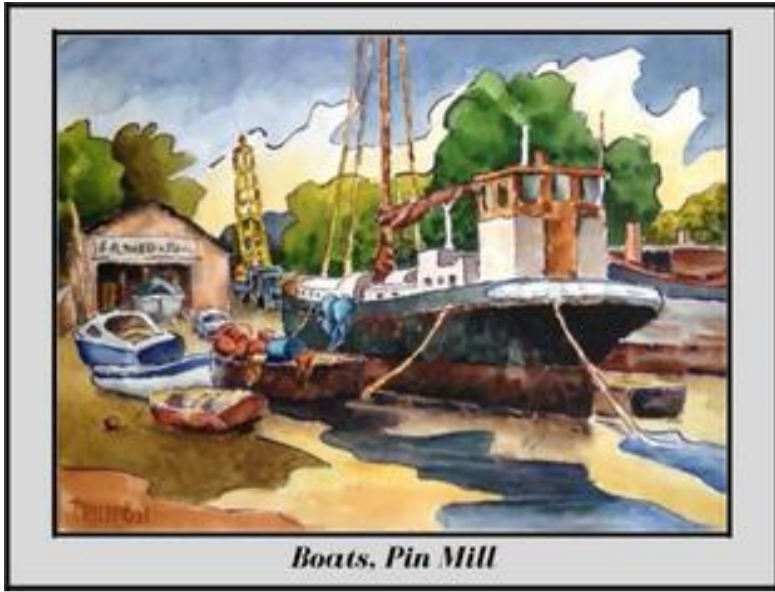


And the effect of that inbuilt instinct of always trying to do better is reflected in the free market, which has a proven history of supplying better and better goods and services as the years go by. **Wherever the demand goes, the money will follow, and the money will attract the best brains who will make their best efforts to produce the best goods to beat their competitors and sell their produce in order to win the money and survive.**

In other words, **"the bar of life" is constantly rising**, as the buyers, who are not stupid, will always want to buy the best products in the market for the money they spend, and the suppliers will always compete to make sure their products are the best and the ones that everybody wants. **And any time one bar rises, you can bet your life that other bars in the same industry or sphere will rise as well, because they are all fighting for a share of the market.** The "all around bar" is constantly moving up, which is good for everybody.

YES OR NO.....

So, if we take the commodity called 'education', and ask is there anything wrong with spending your money and buying the best education the market can offer, in the context of what we have said above, there is nothing wrong at all. In fact, the more you buy, the better for everyone,



Boats, Pin Mill

because you will cause “the bar of education” to rise. The more money spent will both increase the overall supply of education, as well as bringing in more of the best brains to improve the quality of that education. The more school places available the better for everyone, and the better the quality of that education the better for everyone. Everybody gains. Your child gains. The whole country gains. The level of the national playing field goes up a notch or two.

It is absolutely ‘natural’ to want the best for you yourself and your children. And the best available education is one of the best ways of doing the best for your child. That is why you see perfectly sane and decent couples from blue collar backgrounds, white collar backgrounds and the professional ranks working round the clock, saving and scrimping themselves in order to afford to send their children to the best schools. We all respect and look up to these people. They are following their natural instincts of making life better for their family and at the same time they are ‘pushing the bar of achievement’ up for everybody else. They

are practicing the Ancient Greek philosophy known as Arête which encourages everyone to maximise their abilities in order to achieve the full meaning of life during their time on earth. And you can’t find a bigger moral argument than that.

You even find ambitious and intelligent politicians jeopardising their careers and risking being called outright hypocrites by preaching egalitarian dogmas while practicing free enterprise initiative when choosing which school to send their children to. We don’t look up to these people, but we can understand their motivation...

(there would certainly be a few question marks flying about if you found a reverse situation, namely someone who chose not to send his children to the best school simply on the back of theoretical, unproven, egalitarian beliefs...!!)...

So, nobody but nobody, who wants the best education for his children, is taking away or minimising the supply or quality of education for any other child. He is, as stated above, doing the opposite.

EDUCATION AS A COMMODITY.....

Let us now consider education as a commodity and compare it with all other commodities available in the marketplace. Well, first of all, I think we can safely put this commodity at the top of the class, because this commodity is all about knowledge, and it is the knowledge that we humans have gained from our rational brains that has allowed the human race to rise up from its animal origins and dominate the rest of nature. There is no start date as to when teaching or education started, but it must have been when one ape man passed on a bit of useful knowledge to another ape man. That is when “the fountain of knowledge” began, and it has been growing ever since. The more you take from the fountain the bigger and stronger it grows, as newer and newer knowledge is always ploughed back in. This commodity is all profit and no loss. Taking this commodity is good for you and does not detract from anyone or anything else. It is unlike all other material things, when sometimes the more you have, the less is left for others. And knowledge, per se, certainly does not take anything from nature. (However, when ‘knowledge’ invents a chain saw, man is happy but nature is terrified.!) Knowledge is invisible wealth, good for you and others, yet taking nothing away from anyone or thing around you.

Because knowledge has underpinned humanity’s ascendancy over the rest of nature, on a micro scale it obviously is one of the most important factors or commodities that you can give an individual human being, because it will help determine how that individual human being will be able to survive or compete against another human being.....such as.....bringing it right down to earth,‘who will get the job’?.....!

EDUCATION FOR FREE.....

Which is why, ever since socialism and the State stepped in, and maybe before, enlightened societies, churches and royalty, have subsidised or offered free education to those who could not afford it. It is obvious that for anybody to survive in life, they need to have a job, and reading, writing and arithmetic would be base essentials for that to happen. Very fair, reasonable, civilised and charitable. The money for the free education coming from the funds of the wealthier sections of society. This “redistribution of wealth” or socialism, is a recent happening in terms of human civilisation, and was only made possible by the absolutely huge wealth made in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries by the winners in the free enterprise market on the back of the colonisation of the 3rd world, the industrial revolution and the opening up of America. If there was no excess wealth, there never would have been enough money to redistribute and socialism would never have been born.

But there was the wealth, certainly enough to give away without the givers being in anyway threatened. So, socialism was born and heralded in by all as the new utopia, and in the first half of its life it did an awful lot of good in helping the poorer sections of the community who had been overly exploited when helping the wealthier sections of the community to become rich.



Old Barges at St. Osephs



More boats at PinMill

And one of the best things that happened was the vastly increased provision of free education by The State. And quite unusually, by the middle of the 20th century, some of the 'free education' provided by The State was even overtaking, in academic terms, the private education that only the wealthiest in the country could afford. The State Grammar Schools were beginning to overtake the Etons and Harrows of this world. And because the top Universities like Oxford and Cambridge reserved most of their places for only the top private schools, the academic cream from The Grammar Schools ended up in what were called 'the red brick' universities scattered throughout the rest of the country. And guess what ??...very soon the red brick universities were beginning to outperform the Oxbridge's of this world. Which in turn forced the Oxbridge's to widen their intake of graduates, making more room for the best brains coming from The State Grammar Schools.

NOW....how did this happen. Surely, as we have described, the best money will always find the best commodity on the market.

And yet here we see education that costs nothing beating education bought by the best money. At least in academic terms. (If you take an all-around education which takes into account environmental reasons, small class size, sporting and social considerations, and 'networking possibilities', then the privately funded schools will still hold top spot.) But if you take academic considerations alone, the Grammars probably did, I am told, have the edge. And that was entirely due to introducing a little bit of 'the game of life', or competition, reasonably early on in life, which happened with the '11+' exams.

Grammar schools were filling their classrooms with the 'naturally gifted' brighter children in the country, and money cannot buy something that is naturally gifted. Money cannot buy invisible wealth. The best private schools still provided the best all-around education, but because their intake of pupils did not have to successfully jump the academic hurdle, their academic intake did not match that of The Grammars. From what I gather from my friends, Grammar Schools were the best engine of social mobility this country ever had. They allowed the academic cream from poor backgrounds to rise to the top and achieve fulfilment in life, which was good for the individuals themselves and good for the country. The playing fields of the country 'were becoming more level', and the quality of those playing fields was going up a notch or two as a result.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.....

SO...what ever happened to the jewel in the crown of State education....why did grammar schools, that had a proven and practical record of success, disappear off the map.....surely they could not have been brushed aside by faulty, unproven, yet politically correct 'egalitarian' man made thinking....!?!??

.....WELL.....let us put one huge tongue into one huge cheek and say that they disappeared roughly at the time that good socialism turned into bad socialism.....when those people that originally needed a helping hand grew so secure and confident in themselves that they began 'to bite the hand that originally fed them' (that is a very old saying so there must be some truth or natural law basis to back it up).....when the majority of these 'biting' actions could be seen as 'self harming', to the individuals, the society, the company or country involved, (all the time remembering that 'self harming' is the exact opposite of 'self survival', which is our nature's number one law,)when the losers in life became less afraid of the winners in life and began to pull down the bars of success that the winners had set.....when the theory that competition, which underpins the whole game of life and so adds meaning and zest to life, is thought of as bad because the losers suffer.....when the laws of 'survival of the fittest' became blunted and were replaced by those featherbedding laws that protected the less fit.....when humanity tried to turn the basic laws of Creation on its head and encouraged the bar of achievement to fall rather than to rise.....when the socio/communist practices in Russia and China, based on egalitarianism, lead to the brutal murdering of millions of their own citizens who were actually showing virtue and talent and raising the bar of life for all those around them.....when this concept was openly admired by the leading intellectuals in The West....(and possibly by the Minister of State who airbrushed out the Grammar School principle)..... when union leaders climbed up their own ladders of life by encouraging their members to strike against and bring down the very companies that were paying their wages and feeding them.....when political leaders stoked up envy and hate between the rich and the poor in order to win votes and cling to power.....when 'real' life all of a sudden does not want to be recognised, because it can hurt, and when 'unreal or virtual' life is forced down our throats, to guarantee that nobody's feelings are in the slightest way affected.....when people in general become so mesmerised and uncertain as to what is going on that they are too frightened to say anything, especially that 'unreal' is not real.....when England's own representatives of Islamic State, (who themselves were in fact born out of the ashes of their profiteering fore fathers), are keen to pull down The statues of yesterday's winners, because they are certain that they themselves, although being physiologically exactly the same, would never have acted in the same way.....which is the same thing as trying to make people believe that "they 'are' what they are not", which is an admission by them that they themselves are 'not of this planet'.....!!!.....phew.....(..I was going to end there, but I must mention one little thing that has just happened...the quite a dramatic change to traffic legislation.....which again, like a lot of things nowadays, go diametrically against the basic laws of Creation....every natural cell in our bodies tells us that if we are the weaker or more vulnerable



Lantern, Dedham Hall



View from Lake Derwentwater

party, then we must use 120% of our focus and ability to stay out of the way of the stronger and more dangerous party in order to survive.....yet these new laws are doing the absolute reverse...they are more or less suggesting that the predators and the prey should swap places....try working that one out....).....well....I enjoyed getting all that out of my system.....and that feeling alone assures me that I am definitely part of nature on this Earth.....!.....in truth, I think most of us would agree that we humans today are spending far too much time worrying and exaggerating our own emotional hurts caused by words alone, (and in doing so creating our own new disease known as mental health) while spending far too little time taking note of the real physical hurts (sticks and stones) we are handing out to our own environment and our animal cousins who inhabit it. They of course have no voice. Also, finally, another word on this concept of 'biting the hand that feeds you'. Could we not extend that concept and say that Mankind as a whole, because of its recent success in at last physically overpowering Nature, and

claiming moral supremacy on the back of freedom and democracy, is now so confident in itself that it feels free to bite that hand that originally gave it birth.....think, think, think.....surely that is not the right path to take.....

CHANGING TIMES.....

I know things change, but the changes going on now are a little too fundamental and a little too unreal. Things are running contrary to 'natural law' which is the only law we know that will make solid foundations that work for human societies to live in and survive in.

Quite honestly, we are all in a bit of a muddle. There is so much hot air swirling round in a bucket that has no sides of right or wrong, no base of fear and no lid of hope. You don't know what you are allowed to say or if winning is bad and losing is good.

So maybe we just sit back and wait for a strong west wind to clear the air, or we take a hint from the Grammar Schools of yesteryear. Did they not tick some good boxes. They allowed for competition, which follows the basic laws of Creation and of how we are made. Which allows for hope and fear which in turn gives us the zest and meaning of life. It allows for the 'raising of the bar' and it allows for social mobility which is the best way of providing a level playing field for all of us to play our game of life on. And a level playing field will allow for a more flexible and constantly moving hierarchy, which is healthy and natural.

All teaching is good and if you are a normal parent you are just being normal and natural to want to put your children in the best schools around. No normal person would want to start his child off 20 yards behind the field in the 100 yard dash when beginning his game of life.

Every single investment in education helps raise the bar for all. And this bar, the teaching bar, is the most important bar or commodity in our world today. Remember. Education gave Mankind the knowledge to conquer nature. **Knowledge can now go full circle and lead Mankind back to its rightful position. That of being the subservient guardian of all Nature on earth.** Underlying all teaching are the original parameters of human survival on earth. Good Manners. Good and bad, right and wrong, love thy neighbour **and right at this minute, love thy Creation more.** (*..in fact, at this particular time of real change on earth, as to how all human beings are now having to think much more seriously about their environment, it would be fabulous if all Churches/Religions were big enough and brave enough to step forward and encourage all schools to teach their pupils that saying their 'practical prayers' to Nature, or Creation, should take priority over saying their normal 'oral prayers' to their own particular God or Prophet. Environmental laws would then become a universal umbrella covering all religions.*)

There would be no conflict of interest in doing this. Sooner or later humanity will have to accept that environmental laws and values will have to pre-empt human laws and values, and getting this into people's heads when they are young at school will help this come about.

Good education will lead to good manners and good manners will lead to good actions. And good actions will point the 'market demand' (and therefore the money, investments and best brains) into a greener direction to help, not hinder, the environment. Which is the absolute priority for our little planet right at this moment.

REMEMBER. The market will always follow the money. If in doubt, go back to para one...!



Lake District, Perilous road back from Watendlath



With Kind Regards....

Philip Arundell. P.S.