

Soul Searching and the Ethics of Money in Hard Times

Aren't you relieved that Bernie just pleaded guilt already?!

Can you imagine the expense of a long-drawn out drama of a trial? Aren't you thrilled that he's spared us that?

I'm still so pissed. And I got even more pissed when I read his testimony before the judge during his hearing to waive his trial and plead guilty. The judge asked him about the genesis of his bilking scheme. Madoff replied, "I believed it would end shortly and I would be able to extricate myself and my clients from the scheme. However, this proved difficult, and ultimately impossible."

So, in other words, you just kept taking other people's money for another 20 years and this is how you attempt to live with yourself. Well, shame on you.

It will take decades to heal the betrayals and losses you've caused Bernie.

I've been searching for thoughtful pieces on ethics when it comes to money. The good Lord knows we need them - right now. In my faith tradition, worshipping anything besides THE Incredible Greatness of Being, aka God, is karmically terrible. I probably don't have to tell you that there seem to be a disproportionate number of money or "idol" worshipers in our midst.

I found an interesting piece. Check out Timothy Egan's posting on Greed and Need:

<http://egan.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/03/11/greed-and-need/>

I invite you to comment and continue the dialogue. We need to wrestle with how to work with money for the greater good...for ourselves, our families and our communities.