

The Richest Man in Bablyon

By George S. Clason

Seven Cures of a Lean Purse

1. **Start Thy Purse to Fattening** – for each ten coins, I spend but nine.
2. **Control Thy Expenditures**
 - An unusual truth about money: What each of us calls our “necessary expenses” will always grow to equal our incomes unless we protest to the contrary.
 - Thy desires are many and those thou mayest gratify are but few.
 - Budget thy expenses that thou mayest have coins to pay for thy necessities, to pay for thy enjoyments and to gratify thy worthwhile desires without spending more than nine-tenths of thy earnings.
3. **Make Thy Gold Multiply** – Put each coin to laboring that it may reproduce its kind (compound interest), a stream of wealth that shall flow consistently into thy purse.
4. **Guard Thy Treasures From Loss**
 - Invest where thy principal is safe, where it can be reclaimed and where thou will not fail to collect a fair rental (rate of return).
 - Consult with wise men. Secure the advice of those experienced in the profitable handling of gold. Let their wisdom protect thy treasure from unsafe investments.
5. **Make of Thy Dwelling a Profitable Investment** – i.e., own thy home.
6. **Insure a Future Income** – provide in advance for the needs of thy growing age and the protection of thy family (life insurance).
7. **Increase Thy Ability To Earn** – that man who seeks to learn more of his craft shall be richly rewarded.

Meet the Goddess of Good Luck

1. Good luck waits to come to that man who accepts opportunity.
2. The spirit of procrastination is within all men. We desire riches; yet, how often procrastinate. In listening to it we do become our own worst enemies.
3. Men of action are favored by the goddess of good luck.

The Five Laws of Gold

1. Gold cometh gladly and in increasing quantity to any man who will put by not less than one-tenth of his earnings to create an estate for his future and that of his family.

The Richest Man in Babylon (continue)

2. Gold laboreth diligently and contentedly for the wise owner who finds for it profitable employment, multiplying even as the flocks of the field.
3. Gold clingeth to the protection of the cautious owner who invests it under the advice of men wise in its handling.
4. Gold slippeth away from the man who invests it in businesses or purposes with which he is not familiar or which are not approved by those skilled in its keep.
5. Gold flees the man who would force it to impossible earnings or who followeth the alluring advice of tricksters and schemers or who trusts it to his own inexperience and romantic desires in investment.

The Gold Lender of Babylon

1. If you desire to help thy friend, do so in a way that will not bring thy friend's burden upon thyself.
2. The wise lender wishes not the risk of the undertaking but the guarantee of safe repayment.
3. If thee wouldst lend it so that it may earn thee more gold, then lend with caution and in many places.
4. I will no longer lend where I am not confident that it will be safe and will be returned to me. (return of investment)
5. Neither will I lend it where I am not convinced that its earnings will be promptly paid to me. (return on investment)
6. Be not swayed by the fantastic plans of impractical men who think they see ways to force thy gold to make earnings unusually large.
7. Be conservative in what thou expect to earn that thou mayest keep and enjoy thy treasure.
8. Seek to associate thyself with men and enterprises whose success is established that thy treasure may earn liberally under their skillful use and be guarded safely by their wisdom and experience.

Other Truths From the Richest Man In Bablyon

1. Work well done does good to the man who does it. It makes him a better man. Many things do I enjoy but nothing takes the place of work.
2. The soul of a free man looks at life as a series of problems to be solved and solves them, while the soul of the slave whines, "What can I do who am but a slave?"
3. If thou make no effort to repay thy debts, then thou hast but the contemptible soul of a slave. No man can respect himself who does not repay honest debts.