



# *The Sound of Rain*

*Supporting the work of Emily Carson*

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Transcribed from a sitting with Emily Carson

To base your life on the money you acquire is to mistake happiness for value, and joy for consumption. Money is, every time, a means to an end; it has no substance, no worth, outside of what it can do for you. And sometimes what it can do for you matters, but sometimes all it can do is create for you greater complexity, more problems, and deeper confusion. The most basic misunderstanding that almost everyone has about money is that it is worth something in and of itself. If money is only a means, and can only ever be a means, then, if there is an alternative route to the end you seek, why would you not take it? If you have the choice, in some moment, between money and happiness, how is it sane to turn away from the happiness? Money holds some promise for that, but happiness is real, it is already present, it is alive, it is inherently valuable to you. Money is no more than a possibility, a possibility that sometimes bears fruit but often bears differently from what you expected. Money is a crutch for people who feel helpless, a source of pride for people who believe they need that, and the root of despair for people who have decided to place all their faith there. If you lose sight of the nature of money, you cannot actualize joy in your life because you will, over and over again, in your confusion and despair, choose money instead of joy. Your challenge today is this: To be honest with yourself about your relationship to the money you have and the money you want. To find, in that relationship, your anxieties, your fear, your pride, and your hope about money and what it can give you. And last, to see if, inside yourself, even right now, you cannot locate some happiness which is unfettered by money, disconnected from its value or its promise, forever free of consumption and commerce, and so, something no one can take from you, something you cannot trade, something you cannot lose. Many people have been able to exist with extremely little money, and some of them have been able to be happy. A few people have had the fortune of fortune, and very few of them have been able to be happy. It is, simply speaking, more difficult to find real joy with wealth than without it. Most of you

have some real wealth, and so your challenge is somewhat greater. Even in saying this, please understand that I am not advocating poverty. I am advocating intelligence; I am advocating some real and rational perspective on this thing which has become a god to so many, this thing to whom so many of us have secret shrines and guarded hopes. Money is a means of consumption; it will feed you nothing itself. If you know what you want, some reasonable amount of money can be useful to you; but if you don't know what you need, money itself is useless. Money is a last and insignificant step in the direction of achieving your own potential and nourishing yourself again. That's all it ever has been. It can't mean anything more. If you have lived today, if you have breathed into your own body, and felt something of your own presence, then you have already, in this small way, acquired something literally priceless, one of the thousands of things that money can't bring you, one of those precious commodities not bought or sold, not traded, not leased, not bartered, and not belonging to anyone except you. Put money in its proper perspective; it means so little. And you, even right now, already have so many things which mean so much more. Money is a means to an end. I hope for you that you will have exactly as much of it as you need—and no more. Because more is not a blessing, it's a burden; it is distracting and confusing. Wish to have what you need. Work for that. But remember that it is not money you need; it is those few things that it can bring you. And everything else you need is free; it is unbounded, it is yours already, and the cost is only your own presence and intention—which is to say, it costs you nothing. Understand what has real value, and be prosperous in real ways, ways that feed and sustain you, ways that encourage your love and intelligence, ways founded in what is true and what is needed. Go forth and be prosperous. Money is such a small part of that.