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**Research Paper**

**Question:** Discuss the following quote by Voltaire (with reference to the novel): “Don't think money does everything or you are going to end up doing everything for money.”

French philosopher Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet) argues that “Don’t think money does everything or you are going to end up doing everything for money.”. In the novel The Great Gatsby, the writer F. Scott Fitzgerald portrays that money is the main theme of the book and a goal or dream for characters in the book. It is has a huge effect on characters’ relationships and motivations. In the book, most of the characters show themselves to be materialistic, their biggest desire is money and fame. I agree with the idea that money doesn’t do everything but it has a huge influence in real life on almost everything and some people are doing everything for money, some of them use it as a tool. People do most of the work but with money they do it in a way easier and faster, so money is like an enzyme and human body is the world.

It can be said that money doesn’t do everything but it is an advantage in life. First of all, you can’t do everything just using money, but if you have money and people know that, you just start one step ahead in life. “The differences between the rich and everyone else are about health and opportunity” (Summers, 2014). From this cite, we can understand that rich people have more opportunities and Fitzgerald (2017) wrote that in the book: “‘Whenever you feel like criticizing any one,’ he told me, ‘just remember that all the people in this world haven’t had the advantages that you’ve had.” (p.5). Most of the people think the main reason of success and happiness is having a a lot of money, they think money can solve all of their problems, but they do not know money is not the solution all the time, in fact it causes some problems. “Yet despite the evidence that the relationship between material wealth and happiness is tenuous at best, most people still cling to the notion that their problems would be resolved if they only had more money. In a survey conducted at the University of Michigan, when people were asked what would improve the quality of their lives, the first and foremost answer was ‘more money’” (Csikszentmihalyi, 1999). According to the research, people think they need more money to solve their problems but money can’t change everything, it can’t change people’s mind, the way that they think or see the world. “Well, she was less than an hour old and Tom was God knows where. I woke up out of the ether with an utterly abandoned feeling and asked the nurse right away if it was a boy or a girl. She told me it was a girl, and so I turned my head away and wept. ‘All right,’ I said, ‘I’m glad it’s a girl. And I hope she’ll be a fool—that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.’”(Fitzgerald, 2017, p.19). In conclusion, it can be said that money gives you very huge advantages in real life and it can make your goals easier to reach but it doesn’t do everything for you. You can buy people with your money but you can’t buy their trust, love and happiness.

It can be argued that money is not the final goal for some people but it is a medium to reach to a goal, satisfaction and love (especially for this book). Firstly, money is the best thing in the world for materialist people. “’When he does get the chance of showing his house to Daisy he goes out of hand and begins to throw out shirts from his wardrobe so that she will see the high class clothes he can afford’ (Fitzgerald 99). It is as if he wants to say that she could have fine clothes as well if she were to marry him.“ (Johansson, 2011, p.16). In this citation we can understand that Gatsby wants captivate Daisy with his money and he knows that she cares about money and things so much. ‘Her voice is full of money,’ he said suddenly. That was it. I had never understood before. It was full of money—that was the inexhaustible charm that rose and fell in it, the jingle of it, the cymbals’ song of it---. High in a white palace the king’s daughter, the golden girl…. (Fitzgerald, 2017, p.107). Secondly, money is a medium for some people, not the final goal. “According to Ornstein, money is a crucial motive in The Great Gatsby although never the final goal for any of the novel’s characters…” (Johansson, 2011, p.17). Jay Gatsby knows that Daisy cares so much about money, he uses money to get Daisy, make her leave his husband Tom. “It excited him, too, that many men had already loved Daisy ---it increased her value in his eyes.”(Fitzgerald, 2017, p.131). There was a value of Daisy and the main goal for Gatsby was become a man that can afford that value. In brief explanation, some people end up doing everything for money and for some people money is just a medium to reach their real goal.

Taking everything into consideration, Voltaire was partly right about his quote that “Don't think money does everything or you are going to end up doing everything for money.”. I agree that money doesn’t do everything but somethings. It has a value, a meaning for all the people. No one can say that: “I don’t care about money, it’s just a piece of paper.”. Money has its place in humanity for ages. Also, some people are doing everything for money till they die although they are not thinking about it as quote said but some of them uses money as a medium to reach their real goal. In my opinion, if we discuss this quote in conjuction with the book we can say that this quote is partly right.

# References

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