
The Marketplace of Robes

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Abstract

Throughout human history, sincere men and women have arisen with visions of release from suffering. They saw humanity clutching what Unified Theistic Naturalism calls **the Five Gold Coins of the Captive** — suffering, death, identity, injustice, and love distorted into fear. With sincerity, they each offered a robe: renunciation, observation, surrender, salvation, proof, motivation, or mixture. Their intention was noble, their experiences authentic. Yet the marketplace of robes does not dissolve the coins. At best, robes polish them, rename them, or hide them under cloth. Only **communion with the Divine’s unwavering line** dissolves the Five Gold Coins of the Captive. Only **resonant flow** and **perfect action** reveal life whole, free, and unburdened.

This white paper explores the **Marketplace of Robes**: the merchants, their history, their offerings, and the lingering captivity that remains for seekers who give their lives, money, and time in exchange for robes that cannot dissolve the coins.

The Merchants of the Marketplace

Buddha — The Robe of Renunciation

Siddhartha Gautama, born into privilege, walked away from palace life after glimpsing sickness, old age, and death. His sincerity was real: he saw suffering in every form of clinging. His robe was **detachment** — the Eightfold Path, the disciplines of renunciation. Seekers gave up intimacy, desire, community, believing their coins would vanish. But suffering, death, identity, injustice, and love remained, only renamed as illusions to be denied.

Krishnamurti — The Robe of No-Robes (Observation)

J. Krishnamurti, discovered by Theosophists and groomed to be a World Teacher, rejected the role. He declared, “*Truth is a pathless land.*” His robe was **choiceless awareness** — pure observation without method. He rebuked gurus, religions, and authority. Yet his “no-path” became a path, his “no-robes” a robe. Seekers tried to watch endlessly, but with no rudder in Presence, they remained captive. The robe was transparent, but the coins still pressed underneath.

Muhammad — The Robe of Surrender

Born an orphan in 6th-century Arabia, Muhammad experienced revelations in a cave that became the Qur'an. He called for justice, surrender to the One, and brotherhood beyond tribalism. His robe was **submission** — prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, confession of faith. Seekers surrendered their coins to him, believing they were exchanged for eternal security. Yet injustice and separation reappeared, now between believer and unbeliever. The robe bound community together, but the coins remained hidden beneath.

Jesus — The Robe of Salvation

Foretold by prophets, born in poverty, Jesus walked as messenger of love, forgiveness, healing, and the kingdom within. His words stirred the oppressed and the powerful alike. After his death, councils and theologians shaped his robe: **believe, confess, obey, and be saved**. The canon of Scripture was narrowed — Gospels of Thomas, Mary, Philip, and others were excluded, though they carried sacred voices. Seekers gave their lives to this robe, believing the promise of eternal rest. Yet suffering persisted, death still stung, injustice endured, and identity fractured into Christian versus heathen. The robe sanctified the coins, but could not dissolve them.

Science — The Robe of Proof

The modern merchant, clad in certainty. Science offers explanation and progress: medicine, technology, engineering. Its robe is **knowledge**. Seekers hand over their coins believing experiments and theories will dissolve suffering, delay death, erase injustice. But science only dissects the coins, never dissolves them. The mind knows more, but the heart still clutches.

Self-Help — The Robe of Motivation

This stall shines with charisma and slogans. Its robe is **empowerment**: morning routines, affirmations, visualization, success strategies. Seekers hand over their coins for achievement and “breakthroughs.” But identity grows more fragile, suffering more hidden, love more transactional. The coins are renamed as “growth opportunities,” but never dissolved.

Hodgepodge — The Patchwork Robe

This stall sells fragments: crystals, tarot, yoga, mysticism, therapy — stitched together into a cloak of variety. Seekers hand over coins bit by bit, sampling this and that. But beneath the patchwork, the coins remain, disguised under novelty.

The Tragedy and the Sincerity

Each merchant was sincere. Each sought freedom from the Five Gold Coins of the Captive. Their offerings gave temporary relief, new language, and community. But the structure of exchange — **coins for robe** — binds the seeker to repetition. The robe becomes identity, and the coins reappear.

The tragedy is not their sincerity, but that robes became the substitute for **communion with the Divine's unwavering line** — expressed as freedom, unconditional love, compassion, stillness, truthfulness, non-duality, and wholeness.

Communion Beyond the Marketplace

Only **communion** dissolves the Five Gold Coins of the Captive. Communion is not exchange, not robe, not discipline. It is resonance with the Divine line.

- **Resonant Flow:** when no action is required, presence itself transmits wholeness.
- **Perfect Action:** when action is required, timing and word arise whole, wholesome, righteous, healing in hindsight and in the present.

This is not for sale. It cannot be traded in the marketplace. It is revealed when oscillation ceases, and nothing stands between the seeker and the Divine.

Reflective Questions for the Seeker

1. Which robe do I find myself wearing now? How did I pay for it?
 2. Do I still feel the Five Gold Coins of the Captive pressing in my hand beneath the robe?
 3. Have I mistaken temporary relief for true dissolution of the coins?
 4. If I look at others in my tradition, can I honestly say their coins are gone — or only hidden?
 5. What would it mean to step out of the marketplace entirely?
 6. Can I imagine life without robes — not nakedness, but communion, where no transaction is needed?
 7. What would Resonant Flow feel like in my day? How would Perfect Action reveal itself in my relationships?
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Conclusion

The Marketplace of Robes is as old as humanity. Merchants beckon, sincere and passionate, offering release from suffering, death, identity, injustice, and distorted love. Yet every robe leaves the seeker still clutching coins. The robes may polish, disguise, or sanctify the weight, but they do not dissolve it.

Only communion — undivided resonance with the Divine's unwavering line — dissolves the Five Gold Coins of the Captive. Only in communion do suffering, death, identity, injustice, and love-as-fear lose their power.

The seeker need not buy another robe. The invitation is to release the coins and discover what was never for sale: communion already here.
