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# You Are The Rich Young Ruler

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## Abstract

For centuries, the story of the rich young ruler has been told as a warning against wealth. But the truth runs deeper. Riches are not only measured in currency but in attachments — the hidden treasures we refuse to surrender. Through the lens of Unified Theistic Naturalism (UTN), this white paper reframes the encounter not as a parable about money, but as a mirror of every human life. The Five Gold Coins of the Captive — suffering, death, identity, injustice, and love — shine with the false promise of security and meaning. We cherish their sparkle, yet the cost of maintaining them is our energy, health, and peace. UTN shows that the robe of attachments is not sustainable; it consumes your life. The question is not whether you have wealth in the bank, but whether you are willing to dissolve the gold coins you admire most.

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## The Encounter We Think We Understand

The account of the rich young ruler has been told for centuries — a man approaches Jesus, confident in his goodness, asking what more he must do. Jesus tells him to give away his wealth, and he walks away sorrowful. The moral is usually reduced to a warning about material riches.

But this narrow reading gives most people a convenient escape. If you are not rich in the bank, you feel exempt. You point to others with more and quietly believe you are safe. Yet in UTN, the “rich” are those who refuse to dissolve their attachments — whatever form they take.

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## The Gold Side of the Five Gold Coins of the Captive

In UTN, these attachments are the **Five Gold Coins of the Captive** — the five core human problems every framework tries to solve for:

1. Suffering and Pain
2. Death and the Fear of Nonexistence
3. Identity and Purpose

4. Injustice, Evil, and Chaos
5. Love and Belonging

Attachments sparkle because they seem to offer solutions to these coins. They give you emotional leverage, identity, and power:

- The ability to influence or control others
- Status or recognition within a group
- Familiar comfort in old roles and relationships
- Security in predictable beliefs
- A sense of moral high ground over those who differ

This is the **gold side** — the side that seduces you. You admire it. You feel it makes you more. You measure your life by the currency it provides.

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## The Cost You Do Not Count

But the flip side of each coin is costly. Maintaining these attachments drains you in ways most never measure:

- Constant mental occupation — defending your stance, replaying scenarios, anticipating threats
- Accelerated aging through sustained physiological stress
- Inflammation and immune suppression from never allowing the body full repair cycles
- Dependency on medications that give the illusion of wellness while creating new imbalances that require more drugs
- Metabolic overload from fueling a mind that never stops moving

The robe you wear — your identity, beliefs, and positions — is not cleaned for a few dollars. It is maintained at the cost of your life.

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## The Energy Equation

This is not mystical. This is measurable biology. Thought consumes energy. A chattering mind burns fuel constantly, demanding more food, more sugar, more stimulation. The body stays in “processing mode” instead of “healing mode,” leading to obesity, fatigue, and chronic illness.

UTN does not reduce chatter — it **eliminates it from center frame entirely**.

- The mind appears on center frame only at the request of presence.
- There is no background hum, no ongoing inner audience.

- What replaces chatter is harmony — the unobstructed unfolding of life in resonance with the Divine.

Energy once lost to defense and posturing is now available for repair, clarity, and perfect action.

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## The Real Choice

The young ruler's dilemma was never about money. It was about giving up the shining coins — the valued attachments to the Five Gold Coins of the Captive.

The real question is: **will you dissolve what you admire most when you see the cost it takes from you?**

If you keep the robe, the coins, the attachments — know that you are the rich young ruler. And the price you pay is not only in the end — it is now, in the quiet erosion of your health, your peace, and your life.

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## Self-Reflection

- Where do I see the sparkle of the Five Gold Coins in my life — the places I feel stronger, safer, or more valuable because of my attachments?
  - Am I willing to release even what feels most beneficial, to discover the harmony of communion with the Divine?
  - Or will I, like the young ruler, walk away sorrowful — still clinging to the robe that costs me my life?
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