

## Why don't rich people just stop working

With the number of Americans making \$1 million or more spiking by 40% between 2010 and 2016, according to the Internal Revenue Service, you may think that the rich are finally feeling *flush* enough to *ease up*, *kick back*, *chill out*. They are not.

flush 潮红; 旺盛期; 富有的

ease up 放松; 减轻

kick back 平静下来

chill out 冷静

Studies over the years have indicated that the rich, unlike the leisured *gentry* of old, tend to work longer hours and spend less time socializing. Tim Cook, the chief executive of Apple, has said that he wakes up at 3:45 a.m. to mount his daily assault on his corporate rivals.

gentry 人们; 贵族们

"If you're an alcoholic," said Steven Berglas, a psychologist, "you're going to take one drink, two drinks, five drinks, six drinks to feel the buzz. Well, when you get a million dollars, you need 10 million dollars to feel like a king. Money is an addictive substance."

Also, the isolation that often accompanies extreme wealth can provide an emotional impulse to keep on earning, long after material comforts have been met.

Berglas said: "If you can't relate to people, you presume that the failure to have rewarding relationships is because of *jealousy*. It's a compensatory mechanism — 'I might not have a ton of friends, but I can do anything I want.'"

jealousy 嫉妒; 猜忌

Limitless opportunity, extreme isolation. They already own the present. What else is left to buy but tomorrow, and the tomorrow after that? Suddenly, the *fetish* of the superrich for space tourism starts to make sense.

fetish 恋物; 迷信