

A HOLLOW EMPTY DISGUSTING LIFE IS TO MAKE YOUR CONCERN LYING TO PEOPLE ABOUT HOW GREAT SOME JUNK IS AND CONCERNING YOUR LIFE WITH COUNTING YOUR MONEY

In the current age, lying to people in every way to sell them some junk they do not need at all and then considering your life's serious work to count your money and pretending to be very successful, that to me is a hollow empty disgusting life.

Note that I do not consider fair value exchange of goods and services to be particularly bad. If I have a bunch of books I have read many times that I am willing to give away in exchange for a bicycle or a collection of CDs, that's not a problem. I don't think it is a respectable honourable life to spend it mostly counting money that comes from selling useless junk and doing a lot of propaganda about their great value to gullible fools.

Accounting in a serious firm doing valuable service for people is just operations. The moral value of the company is what they actually do for people, not how much they were able to hoodwink people by PR. Unless the lives of people improved, their work is worthless.

In the end the value of what you do to people's lives will determine whether you are doing something respectable or having a hollow empty life.

I don't have a high opinion of people who made a lot of money by not doing anything that lifted the lives that their products touched. That is what makes a company great, that their products improved the lives of people who took their products and remunerated them. If you managed to convince a billion people that tulips are great investments and sold them tulips for \$100 each and made some money, that does not make you a particularly great man. You won't make it to Zulf's list of honoured people.

1. HOW MY RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND PREPARES ME FOR THIS

I was born in a Muslim family but had absolutely no interest in Islamic theology at all and became Atheist at six. Then I had a life in America from 13. Now I am very very good at avoiding Islamic theological conversations. If someone says, fictionally, what you are saying has resonance from Hazrat Soleiman-Ullah from Baghdad in 15th century in his tract that was distributed also in Levant in North Africa and East to Bengal etc. etc. I have absolutely no idea of this erudite connection but conveniently escape promising that we shall surely have a much more fruitful discussion about this another day including how the Islamic Sufis had adapted the Jewish Kabbalah in Iran in 14th century and produced an entirely new cult of Muslims who were Kabbalistic dervishes.

I find these fascinating, but I am actually much more Western in my outlook and at the moment prefer to focus on scientific models.