

Does Your Money Need a New Job?

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If your money had a job description, what would it be? What is your money's job in your life? Before reading on, think about this for just a moment and notice what words and images show up.

I've come up with four job titles that sum up descriptions I've heard over the years. Here they are with their main tasks in life and their mottos.

Security Guard: to keep you safe, to protect and maintain. Motto: "Safety first; it's all fun and games until someone loses their retirement savings."

Personal Stylist: to make you look good, feel valuable/powerful/lovable. Motto: "Without me, you'd be nothing."

Genie: to grant your wishes and fund your dreams. Motto: "Your wish is my command."

Day Laborer: hired one day at a time with no guarantee of future work. Motto: "Here today, gone tomorrow."

Which one best describes your money? Is there some other job title that fits better? Consciously or not, you gave your money whatever role it's playing out. You began interacting with it in specific ways, expecting certain things from it (or not), and creating a pattern that persists over time. Perhaps you entered into that contract long ago. The terms of that contract may be holding you *and* your money back.

If you're not totally satisfied with your contract, it's time to renegotiate the terms and give your money something to aspire to. This may seem like a silly exercise, asking you to personify money in this way, but think about it. You do have a relationship with your money. You care whether it's in your life or not. You have emotions and beliefs attached to it. You have a history together. You interact with it daily. A relationship like this requires your attention in ways you may not have realized before. If you can treat your relationship with money similarly to how you treat other personal relationships in your life, your money will respond in kind.

How to Renegotiate Your Contract with Money

1. Starting with your money's current job description, write down what's working and what's not working for you.
2. Create a new job description for your money, incorporating anything from the old description that you want to keep.
3. Set clear directives. Tell your money in no uncertain terms what is to be expected of it. Remind your money that this is a win-win situation. If it does its job well, you'll treat it with more respect. You'll give it more to aspire to.
4. Be the boss. Lead with integrity by doing your part. What will you be responsible for? How will you provide the appropriate "work environment," skills, nurturing, and resources for your money to excel?
5. Conduct regular performance reviews and don't forget to give your money promotions as warranted with bigger goals to work toward.

Remember it's up to you to determine the dynamics in your relationship with money. It's not magic. It takes work just like any other important relationship in your life. Assume an active role in setting the terms of that relationship with clear expectations for both you and your money. Financial health will become less of a distant hope and more of a realistic goal. You'll partner with your money in new ways to fund your dreams.