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# **Money: A Reorientation to Our Most Abstracted Tool**

Understanding the evolution from  
cooperative exchange to modern  
abstraction

Survivors Guide to Earth - 2025

## **MONEY BEGAN AS A SIMPLE TOOL TO EXTEND HUMAN ABILITY**

One of the defining features of modernity is the abstraction of basic tools of civilization, to such an extent they often become disconnected from their original purpose

## **CONTEXT**

For hundreds of thousands of years, egalitarian cooperation was the norm until about 12,000 years ago

## Timeline of Exchange Evolution

**400,000+**

YEARS OF  
COOPERATION

**stable**

**12,000**

YEARS SINCE  
SURPLUS

**transformative**

**50,000**

YEARS AS ONE  
SPECIES

**interconnected**

# The Evolution of Exchange

- Egalitarian cooperation was the historical norm
- Fair exchange meant all parties equally satisfied
- Societies advanced and began producing surpluses

- Capacity to give, store, and exchange grew dramatically
- Physical tools became conceptual instruments
- Abstraction replaced direct value connection

## CORE PRINCIPLE

*“A fair and good exchange  
was a transaction where all  
parties are equally  
satisfied”*

— Survivors Guide to Earth

# The Abstraction Problem

We continually fail to grasp that humanity has been one surviving species with an interconnected lineage for 40,000-50,000 years

## **SYSTEM FAILURE CONSEQUENCES**

When emergency strikes and money systems fail, people die from lack of access to food, shelter, and medical care even when these resources physically exist

# The Fatal Disconnect

- Money abstraction creates delays in crisis response
- Physical resources exist but access is blocked
- Tool has become disconnected from original purpose
- Human cooperation replaced by system dependency

# Tool vs Abstraction

## Original Tool

### Extended human ability

- Made tasks easier and faster
- Facilitated fair exchange
- Supported cooperation
- Connected to real value

## Modern Abstraction

### Disconnected system

- Creates barriers to access
- Delays crisis response
- Obscures human connection
- Prioritizes system over survival

# Recognition Required

We must recognize that all people are 'our people' and that our tools should serve human survival, not abstract systems

## Sources

- Survivors Guide to Earth (2025) - Cooke Creative Studio LTD
- The Milking Parlour, Hurst Farm, Kent TN8 6RA
- A Reorientation to Money - Part 1: In The Beginning It Was A Tool