

## False Beliefs

*“It is usually some quiet assumption taken for granted by men of every degree that blocks the road to the great advancements to which mankind is capable. These false beliefs, if they persist too long, are very dangerous to human progress.”*

- Leon MacLaren, (1910 – 1994), Founder of the London School of Economic Science

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Time was when all men believed that the earth was flat. It would be difficult now to trace, as Leon MacLaren suggested in his essay ‘Nature of Society’, all the errors into which this assumption led the thinking of those days, or to ascertain how many practical comforts and advantages which we now enjoy would have been missed had not this conceit been exploded...

One can also easily imagine the storm of abuse that the first serious challenge to that theory raised! It came not merely from the common man and the superstitious but also from the leaders of society. Indeed, it must have been a great shock to human vanity to be told that the natural universe did not revolve around man; mostly, I suspect, for the ruling elite of the time.

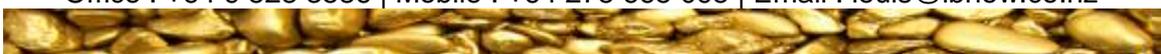
Such is the fate of false beliefs. Ultimately, inevitably, the truth is revealed for what it is and we all then have a choice to make: consider the new evidence presented for what it is or choose to ignore it. That most fundamental choice is an essential personal mental activity for our collective progress. Unfortunately, too many seem to have abdicated their duty to act as such.

As a result, beliefs will tend to be largely governed by what the ruling elite chooses for us to believe. This is where ignorance can seem so appealing. Yet, ignorance is not bliss, as is often suggested. As I see it, ignorance is like a veil that has been placed before our eyes and distorts our perception of the natural order of things. It’s like a drug we’ve become addicted to. Lifting that veil is our challenge.

Sadly, ignorance can actually operate quite powerfully under the guise of education. Our ignorance can even get stronger with ever more institutionalised education. This sad state of affairs ensures our servitude to a ‘system’ which places debt at the very centre. Debt passes for money now and so, debts are the shackles of our slavery today. But true knowledge can set us free from this delusion.

This self-perpetuating and unnatural social, economic and political system will be very hard for us to challenge. But challenge it, we must. Indeed, the Gold Standard Institute has set itself a formidable task: to educate the world about the true role of gold and disseminate the virtues of the Gold Standard so that they become widely understood and appreciated and never again forgotten.

My personal contribution to this noble task will be to write about prevailing and pervasive false beliefs in the monetary realm. I will tackle some of what I consider to be today’s quiet, yet harmful,



assumptions that continue to be made even by those who should know better; assumptions that effectively block the road to humanity's natural progress and keep us on the road to serfdom.

I will attempt to trace some of the errors into which these assumptions have led us when it comes to financial decisions. But I will also endeavour to ascertain how many advantages we could all now enjoy if these conceited false beliefs about money matters were shattered once and for all...