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Artwork: Let's Make a Deal

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"How to Love Money without Really Trying"
Performed as a Keening Ode to Bill

By Sandy Baldwin
SUNY Albany

I. Prelude

A) Before I introduce this rather learned piece of scholarship, I would like to say that it has been sponsored by just about everyone. This leads me to the prefatory quotation—

The eventual objectification of the human product, as commodity in the capitalist system, leads inevitably to ossification of its use value and loss of any ontology of consciousness of the subject, as such. This reification leads to a teleology of totalization that can only be opposed by an insurrectionary counter-force; in this case, class differentiation, as such, is only a possibility through the diversion of large sums of money into numbered Swiss bank accounts and into deep and well-placed pockets. The more things you have, the less you have to think about it.

Notes from the speech of the Ambassador from Serbocroatia to the United Nations General Assembly

B) For the sources of quotations, footnotes, and all of that sort of thing, refer to the Bill of Lading, a collection of bibliographico-notations, in a two-volume set, leather bound, only $7.95, that will be published soon after this document. (Basically, it’s a list of out-of-date books by dead people.)

C) Of course, in its origin, money was a mnemotechnic device for use in barter exchange. This stone, or whatever, replaced a certain amount of real goods, say cattle, representing them. Thus, in this first instance money exhibited its primary trait: signifying something else that was not currently present. And with the monetary system now in place, the circle is complete, so that the goods and services we now create and supply represent money. We are paid in and desire money, or we could say paid in pure desire, which is money, which in turn is clearly represented by the world around us. With a touch, everything is turned to money, because, remember, nobody beats Midas, nobody. It’s just like words, written here to replace me, myself being absent, as if this writing were from me, or spoken by me, as a form of exchange to you, this page being the price, receipt, and spare change between us (you got me real cheap, a bargain); yet at a certain point