

Exploring the Law of Equivalent Exchange

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In the series “Fullmetal Alchemist”, the first rule of alchemy is known as the law of equivalent exchange. The definition presented in the show is "In order to obtain or create something, something of equal value must be lost or destroyed." It sounds very similar to the law of conservation of energy, mass or matter. But, in my opinion, the law of equivalent exchange helps to understand humanity's progression. The theory I framed in conjunction with this law is in no way rational.

Humans tend to put scientific knowledge above all knowledge and reduce other forms of knowledge next to it. According to philosopher Paul Feyerabé, science is just one of many competing explanatory frameworks, one which is neither as rational nor consistent as it pretends to be. With that said, let's dive into the theory.

The universe, at any given time, is moving toward equity in every way possible, even with respect to humanity. I always thought that life in general is reincarnated into different species over multiple lives. A person in this lifetime can be an amoeba in the next one or a white shark in this lifetime can be a rich person in the next. Every unit of life at the start of the cycle of reincarnation has an equal amount of energy and consequently can be anything. The task of these units of life is to complete this energy by being born over a certain number of lives with certain perks. If a person is a rich person now, he/she may be a fly in the next lifetime. Hence, the more energy a unit of life spends to lead a more prosperous life, the less it will have to spend over the other lives. That is why there are people who have enormous wealth with no problems and people with no money with many problems. But this inequality would eventually be balanced out in the upcoming lifetimes. There can also be shortcomings or sacrifices in the existing lifetimes to achieve something of equal value in return- law of equivalent exchanges. Some examples might be: a person who is rich but has a short lifespan, a person who is physically attractive but never received an education, a person with autism who invented a time machine, or a person who was socially inactive and didn't receive good grades but became world famous for his artistic skills. If there is something that is nonexistent in your life, there is always a chance that something of equal value is going to present itself later in life to achieve equity.

With that being said, no matter how content or discontent you are with life, you will experience the other undiscovered half. So don't worry, if you have bad grades or are not tall or not relevant or not smart or not rich or physically attractive, there is something of equal value waiting to be explored with the passage of time. Always remind yourself that there is something good waiting for you, and don't let the negativity get to you. If not in this lifetime, you will experience the good in the next. When something bad happens get excited for the good and when something good happens anticipate the bad. Don't let others with more advantages in this lifetime intimidate you as the law of equivalent exchange will do you right. Self deduct and

appreciate the life around you, for you will realize that the law of equivalent exchange is a hopeful philosophy to live by.