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“Ehemals sah man mit ehrlicher Vornehmheit auf die Menschen herab, die mit Geld Handel treiben, wenn man sie auch nötig hatte; man gestand sich ein, daß jede Gesellschaft ihre Eingeweide haben müsse. Jetzt sind sie die herrschende Macht in der Seele der modernen Menschheit, als der begehrlichste Teil derselben” (*Friedrich Nietzsche*, Richard Wagner in Bayreuth, Abschnitt 6, 1876)

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“In the “entrepreneur economy” with, “on the one hand, of a number of firms or entrepreneurs possessing a capital equipment and a command over resources in the shape of money, and, on the other hand, a number of workers seeking to be employed.… the starting up of productive processes largely depends on a class of entrepreneurs who hire the factors of production for money and look for their recoupment from selling the output for money… A process of production will not be started up, unless the money proceeds expected from the sale of the output are at least equal to de money costs which could be avoided by not starting up to process… The firm… has no object in the world except to end up with more money than it has started with. That is the essential characteristics of an entrepreneurial economy.” (*John Maynard Keynes*, Collected Writings XXIX, page 63, 77, 78, 89 et seq.).

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The first economic experience of the author came when he was nine years old. The son of his grandparents’ landlord, Armin, who lived one floor above, had a new gadget; namely, an old electric slot machine. The machine was exceptional in as much as it was – perhaps it was a relic from a more philanthropic age – programmed *to let you win*. This made Armin, who was already a very nice person in his own right, even more well-liked amongst his peer boys. The building’s other kids, the author included, would visit him, more than they had ever visited him before, and never forget to bring some coins. He allowed them to play with his machine, and they would happily return with the pockets full of “Groschen”. Armin’s father, Herr Jung, initially appeared to be glad about his son’s increased popularity and silently refilled the machine for some time. Of course, the day came when the fun was over. If the winners take their winnings home, somebody must refill the ante…

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