

**THINKING.** A popular cliché is that we should engage in positive thinking - presumably as opposed to negative thinking. But is it good advice? As regards business transactions, money issues - in fact any requests - one may be lead to believe: 'With positive thinking I shall attract into my life the prospects and opportunities that will enable me to manifest my dreams.' **P**ositive thinking spawned an industry that lives well off creating desires in people as they 'think the unthinkable', 'believe the unbelievable' and dream up (create in their mind with positive affirmations) a life of riches they cannot reasonably hope to attain. I use a different paradigm, in which the opposite to positive thinking is not negative thinking - but clear, realistic, rational thinking.

*A good book in this context is Barbara Ehrenreich's Bright-Sided, 'How the relentless promotion of positive thinking has undermined America.' Says the author and historian Thomas Bender: "(the book) shows how crippling positive thinking is as a habit of the mind" ... not only in America.*

*Oliver Burkeman also strides an alternative path to happiness and success: The Antidote: 'Happiness for People Who Can't Stand Positive Thinking' embraces failure, pessimism, insecurity, uncertainty. This is the intelligent person's guide to understanding the much-misunderstood idea of happiness.*

*see also my blog 587  
and MONEY, SECRET*