

THINKING. A popular cliché is that we should engage in positive thinking - assumedly 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, where 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.' Thomas Bender, author, historian: "... shows how crippling positive thinking is as a habit of mind."

See also: MONEY, SECRET