

## TO BE A BILLIONAIRE? THE WOES OF THE VERY RICH – AND SOLUTIONS (ЧИ ВАЖКО БУТИ МІЛЬЯРДЕРОМ?)

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Today the Forbes rich list is out and some of us may have spent a few idle minutes pondering the good we could do to ourselves and others with a few billion dollars at our disposal. It is not an easy exercise if you have not even reached your first million -- and possibly never will -- but it is billionaires who are setting the standard for wealth and philanthropy these days. There are 1209 of them in the world currently, 102 of them women. Probably all of the billionaires give something away -- how could they sleep at night otherwise? Researchers at Boston College's Centre on Wealth and Philanthropy say it's not true that wealthy people are more miserly than the non-rich, and that as individuals move up the wealth scale they give away a greater share of their assets. In any case, no-one should feel envious of their fortunes, because, as folklore has it, money can't buy you happiness. New research on super-rich Americans by the Boston College Centre shows that they tend to be "a generally dissatisfied lot, whose money has contributed to deep anxieties involving love, work, and family", according to an article in The Atlantic magazine. Self-worth is closely tied to work, and among those who inherit their wealth, the more sensitive worry that they will lack motivation to accomplish anything in life or escape the shadow of their parents. They can drift through life, without a career or purpose and become estranged from the world. Wealthy people in general may not be taken seriously by co-workers, who can view their work as a charade. It is easy to see how friendship and love could be complicated by great wealth -- issues related to money cause the failure of many marriages among the wealthy and, further back, make it difficult to trust the affection shown by a suitor. The "overwhelming concern of the super-rich" who participated in the research, however, is their children. They are concerned that money might rob them of ambition, give them a perverted view of the world, a sense of entitlement, and prevent them from developing a strong sense of empathy and compassion. A large family, by the way, seems to be part of the solution to having too much money. Some seem to have discovered the secret of not letting wealth ruin their family life: "In the midst of this staggering success, the family remains an unusually close-knit one. And the family still dines together every Monday night."

The moral of this story is a rather predictable one: "Don't work too hard for money, because it isn't going to get you much if you ignore everything else".