**Economy**

**An Interview with The Economy**

Script for a podcast interview

“*The Economy*” is widely talked about in the media as if it is a real thing. This script is a notion of what it might be like if “The Economy” suddenly turned out to be a real person, or other sentient entity, and it did an interview, as if it was a celebrity.

I = Interviewer

E = The Economy

I: Good evening, listeners. We have a special episode this week, with a highly unusual guest, who has never spoken personally in public before, though is often talked about in the media, and indeed in daily life. An intriguing character who is never seen or photographed. “As mysterious as God, and twice as powerful”, it is a great pleasure and privilege to welcome our special guest this week, The Economy.

E: Thank you, Jamie.

I: Thank you very much for joining us here today, in voice if not in person. You’ve obviously got a great many fans out there, who are keen to hear how you’re getting on, and hopefully learn a little more about you, and your plans for the future. We are absolutely delighted, here, that you have granted us this exclusive interview.

E: It’s a pleasure. I’m an enormous fan of your show – though I very much doubt that anyone could tell – so I thought I’d, you know, give something back.

I: Indeed, and we’re so glad that you got in touch. Now, this has all been a bit of a last-minute surprise, and I didn’t get the chance to gather questions from the listeners at home, though I’m sure they have a great many. So the crew here have come up with what we think our viewers would like to know more about. Though, of course, The Economy, this is more about you than about anyone else, so please do feel free (no pun intended), to tell us about anything that interests you, as we go along.

E: I will, Jamie. And thank you for this opportunity.

I: The Economy, you’re most welcome. Here we go. The Economy… You get thanked a lot for the progress of humanity. Do you think that’s just?

E: Ah, now there you’re wrong. I don’t get thanked for anything, despite the build-up and promises. There’s a lot of talk about what I will do, or could do, if I’m in good health. But when any of those things happen, I’m not thanked at all. People say, “If The Economy is healthy there will be more jobs, better working conditions, people will live longer”, and all that sort of thing. Education will be free for all. People will have good pension plans and late-life care. All of those things, apparently, can be up to me, The Economy, so long as I am nurtured, fed, and supported. But when any of those things actually happen, nobody mentions me by name.

They say that The Economy is important for life expectancy, but when the figures come in showing that people really are living longer, it’s due to “an improved health service” or “better diet” or something. Nobody says “The Economy did that”. The media says that The Economy is important for consumer confidence, but if the population starts buying more televisions the media people then say it’s because “a hundred new factories open every day in China”, or “the government is doing a great job”, or because “they are all idiots”.

News reporters and politicians say that when The Economy starts thriving again everything will be better, and so forth. However, when cars become a bit safer and cost less to run, people say it is because some firm has made a new invention, or because cities are installing more electric plug-in points. I never get thanked after the fact. There is always something specific which is responsible for whatever they’re talking about. When these things actually happen, nobody ever says it is “because The Economy is thriving.”

I: That’s true, now you mention it, The Economy. When it comes down to details, you are rarely thanked afterwards. And yet you surely have a role in some of it.

E: Oh, no. I don’t really have any role. I, ‘The Economy’ am supposed to help improve education, however the moment that school children do better at exams, no-one then says “thanks to The Economy”. They say it’s because “education systems are improving”, or because “marks are being inflated”. And those probably are the real reasons. I wouldn’t know what you people get up to, but I’m pretty sure that things are done by people, and by Nature, mostly. It is amusing, though, to be credited with all these things before they happen, over and over again. I do appreciate your devotion.

When the fire service is able to put fires out, or clothes fit better, instead of people saying “See! I told you The Economy would sort it out!”, it’s all “…due to new emergency services policy”, or “that TV series about the fire service really boosted recruitment”. No-one ever says “those fires were put out thanks to The Economy.”

It is quite hilarious that I get plenty of credit before things happen. It’s as if people never realise that I haven’t actually done anything personally. A lot of people look up to me as if I’m as kind as your mother, caring about you, and always there to step in. It’s a rather strange way to store hope. So it seemed worth asking you and the listeners at home, do you really believe that I, The Economy, will sort everything out for you? Or is just that you have a dry sense of humour?

I: I think that most people really do believe that if you, The Economy, are in good form, then things will be better. Everything will progress nicely.

E: Oh, I get it! I am some sort of heroic belief system for a lot of people. Like a lucky pendant, or a rabbit’s foot. You think that if you rub me, things will be great. That sounds terribly superstitious.

I: I suppose it is a bit like that. But a lot of things really are achieved when you, The Economy, are thriving.

E: It’s good to hear, and it is comforting – if a bit bewildering - to have so many devout believers. It’s most kind. I would say, however, that if you really want to be healthy, or have nice clear water - or whatever it is you guys want this week - you’d be better off asking your mother for help, frankly. She probably cares, and might do something about it. I could help a bit, maybe, if you ask nicely and if I’m in the mood, but really those things have little to do with me. It’s up to you guys to sort such things out yourselves.

People used to know that. If you want better diet and health service and old-age care, and some free time to spend with friends and family, I’m flattered that you find me inspiring enough for you to have the self-belief to make it happen.

I: Thanks, that is rather inspiring. The idea that you encourage us to do what we can already do ourselves. That you help us work. Which brings us nicely to another question…

The Economy, you are often associated with Work. Work is often credited for your own success. Conversely, some people say that it is often the other way around: that you do a lot to support Work. It seems like a complicated relationship. Could you describe your relationship with Work?

E: Work! Haha! Priceless! Literally! Since when did work have anything to do with ‘The Economy’?! Women work very hard, and yet feature so little in the fuss that goes on around me. It’s the men who yell about me and are most appreciative, or influenced. I guess they love my jokes. Just look at wartime. In times of war I usually take a quick holiday. While bombs are going off everyone works like crazy, day and night, and barely notices whether I’m there or not. And then, afterwards, they notice I’ve gone, and want me to come back. But those people were working all that time – usually harder than in times of relative peace.

I know that some people say I cause wars, but really people do it themselves.

I: War is usually thought of as being a very tough time for you, The Economy.

E: No, I just sit it out. Go on holiday. If people think I have a rough time during war, then why would they think I cause wars? That makes no sense. It always looks to me that it is you people who have a terrible time, but you keep on doing it, so you must get something out of it.

I: Well, no. Some people may get rich, but for the vast majority, war is terrible. I see your point about work. Wartime is filled with work, and a lot of it is unpaid, while you, The Economy, are missing in action.

E: Exactly! You see.

Consider children. Children have to work in schools, and then they are told by the schools that they must do a couple more hours of work in the evening when they get home. They have to work in their own homes! It adds up to as many hours as most adults do, or more. And all that work of children has very little to do with me.

The folk who love me most do practically no work at all.

Nobody could really believe that I have anything to do with work. If anyone really believed it, well… that would be rather tragic. I’m sure it's just a joke, and after a while people will no longer find it funny.

I: Do you work, yourself?

E: I think I just answered that question. No, I don’t work. Hundreds of people claim to work for me, supposedly. Millions. Probably Billions. I have homes pretty much everywhere. In every country, and pretty much every city. And I can see why you might think that I work, because people often call my homes “offices” or “studios” or “factories”, or “governments” or whatever.

I: So you own a lot of property?

No, I call them “homes” because they are home to me. I am a welcome visitor almost everywhere. I don’t own them. I don’t own anything.

People make up, or imagine, a lot of things about me. There’s really no need. I mean, I’m fine as I am. I guess I might miss the hype if people didn’t make things up about me, but it would be good to hear more about other things sometimes.

I: Do you pay taxes?

E: No. Well, yes and no. It’s a bit reciprocal.

I: Do you take a salary?

E: I don’t take a salary. I just hold stock. Look, I can well imagine that your listeners are interested in all this monetary jargon, or whatever it is, but it doesn’t interest me. I am sure they would like to hear what I think about it all. But that interest reflects more on them than on me. There’s more to life than money, you know!

I: Sure... So,.. Where did you grow up?

E: Haha! I haven’t grown up! I’m still a child, at heart. There’s a lot of responsibility, of course, in being the poster boy for “Humanity” but I wouldn’t say I’ve grown up. I wouldn’t say I’m mature at what I do.

I: What do you do to relax? Do you hang out with friends?

E: Haha! I don’t have many friends. Not ‘friends’ as such. Admirers, mostly. I have so many fans, but I don’t know them. There are some folk I get on quite well with. Hang out with, sometimes. They are mostly young, like me. Europe. USA, who is still just a teenager. Nature sometimes pops round, but is usually asking for something, or wants to go for a walk, and I find that fresh air a bit tedious. I spend quite a lot of time with Advertising – have you met Advertising? Great sense of humour!

My older friends, like Africa, think I’ve got a bit egocentric, but, you know, what with all this youth around, and kid-chaps in suits full of energy and noise, yelling “Look At Me” most of the time… anyone could feel a bit old and jaded in comparison.

I: So, if you don’t mind my asking, how old are you?

E: That’s a rather cheeky question. I’m as old as my tongue, and a little bit older than my teeth.

I: How do you keep fit and healthy, The Economy?

E: I have my ups and downs. I’m quite into gardening. Not necessarily doing it myself. But the whole thing fascinates me. I guess, as we get older, we look to the earth more. So I’m quite interested in tending the soil, as it were. You know, tidying up forests, and putting down a path here and there, or some nice decking.

It’s great. I have so many people working for me, I don’t need to do anything.

I: Do you get a lot of sleep, The Economy? I heard that Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, Silvio Berlusconi, and Donald Trump, would all typically sleep as little as three hours a night. Stalin 4 or sometimes 5. Are you a big sleeper?

E: Heavens, no! I rarely sleep at all. Very occasionally - once every thirty or forty years or so, usually after a big meal - I’ll have a good long snooze, but otherwise I’m awake all the time.

I: Despite being a globally famous figure, you are never seen out in public. Why is this, and how do you manage it?

E: As you say, nobody knows what I look like. Until today, I expect nobody knew I really exist! It’s quite funny. Because I refuse photos… well, I’m really not photogenic. It’s not simply that I look awkward in photos. I don’t even appear in them. I’m like a vampire in a mirror. And, because I am never photographed, people usually do drawings of me. Or, what they think I look like. They usually draw me as a mountain range. I still have absolutely no idea why. All peaks and troughs, up and down. It’s not even drawn well. Very angular. Like an uncomfortable bed. As if it were done with an erratic ruler. Well, not a full mountain range. Just a small part of a mountain range – though rarely the same section. Most odd.

It’s really quite funny, being depicted in this way all the time. It feels like being drawn by a sketch artist in a court of law – except that I never show up for the trial! So the law court’s sketch artist does some squiggles and jagged lines – like an artist’s impression of a missing person or a half-remembered assailant. Spiky lines on a graph, and nobody is any the wiser. I think that a lot of people really think I look like that!

I: Who are your inspirations?

E: Oh, an excellent question. I don’t know if I have ‘inspirations’ as such. I guess, when I was younger, I was quite influenced by Religion. The Sun could be an inspiration, but it’s going to explode at some point, so not really a great role model. Burning away all the time, and spinning about. Prime candidate for a heart attack. Rather like Black Holes. Some folk think I was influenced by Black Holes, but I’ve never noticed them relax. I like to relax. Like to get my beauty sleep.

I: Speaking of things space and time, what are your plans for the future?

E: Well, I do intend to travel more. I’ll be going to Mars soon, and then I’ll do a tour of the asteroid belt. Set up shop, so to speak! I’m sure people will set up shop for me. I don’t have any concrete plans. Or even diamond plans, or recycled oak. No plans at all. Life’s an adventure. Particularly when so many people are looking out for you. I just enjoy being me.

I: Thank you, that’s most interesting. For those of you who have just tuned in, I’m talking this week with none other than The Economy. Yes, The Economy is actually on the line, and talking exclusively about a great many things, which may be news to many of us. I know I have had a couple of surprises.

It’s time for a quick break now, and a word from our sponsors-

E: Excellent!

I: - but we’ll be right back in a minute, talking some more with The Economy. See you in a moment.

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