

Pilgrim *You speak of market forces ... It is a term with which I am unfamiliar.*

Interpreter *The idea of the market is one I know that you understand. Quite soon in their history, human beings began to buy from each other the things they needed but could not themselves grow or make. Humans became buyers and sellers in the market place. Soon the market became a place where humans sold their own labour to others for a price. Money was minted to make this buying and selling more straightforward. Humans worked for others to make or grow things and were paid with money which meant they could go back to the market to buy what they needed. A new force had now entered the world. People began to realise that a profit could be made from such market deals. More money could be made from making sure that the deal was fixed to your advantage. Money and power became inextricably linked. Power was needed to gain the advantage; money helped ensure you had the power. The industrial revolution which I have already explained accelerated these market forces in a way that humans have not yet fully grasped. Now there is a market place that fills the whole world, a global economy, in which those who have fallen in love with money invent ways to make more money, more profit. Money can be made from money. It is commercial alchemy. Every activity, every transaction between humans, can potentially become part of this market.¹⁴ You will see much of this on your journey.*

Pilgrim *But surely these market forces will mean your developed world will always seek to have the advantage over the developing world? And won't the rich and powerful always be striving to keep their wealth and their status at the expense of those who have less?*

Interpreter *You have already begun to draw your own conclusions about how far the few who have wealth shape what is called democracy. As you consider these matters, remember those things I have explained about oligarchy and plutocracy. Remember also the struggles I mentioned that had to be fought to secure the right to vote in elections for those who were disadvantaged. Wealth and power have been successfully challenged. Market forces have been regulated by elected*