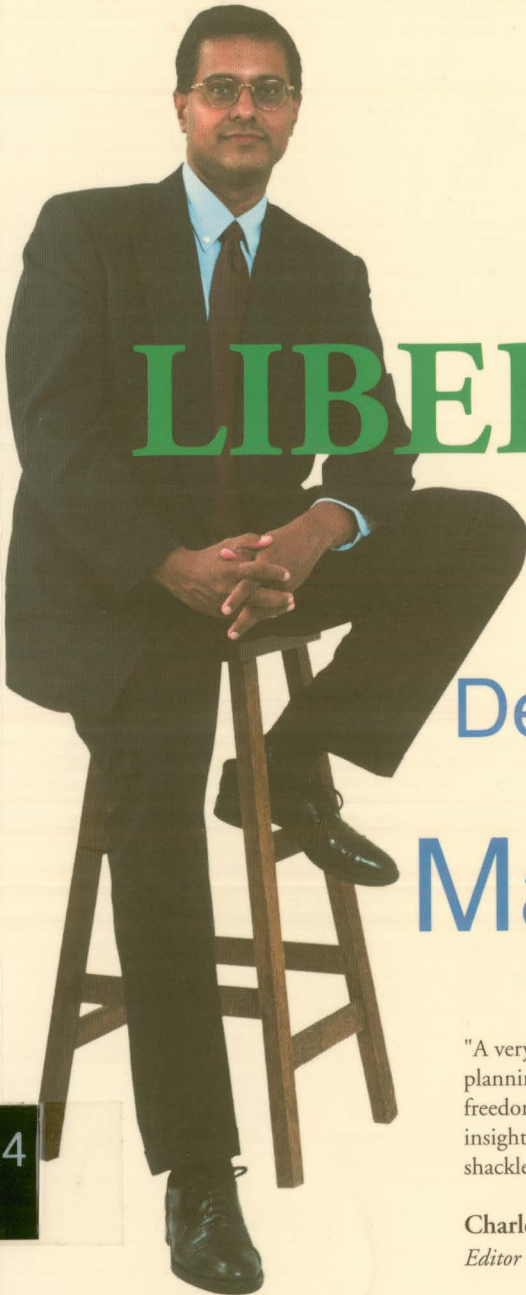


RAJEN DEVADASON



LIBERTY!

From Debt-Slave to Money Master

"A very useful and practical book on planning and achieving your financial freedom. Rajen has provided an interesting insight on how to save yourself from the shackles of debt."

Charles Raj

Editor - Malaysian Business magazine

2024
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LIBERTY!

From Debt-Slave to Money Master

By Rajen Devadason

PUSTAKA PERDANA



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Prelude

Men never plan to be failures; they simply fail to plan to be successful.

William A. Ward

I can give you a six-word formula for success: 'Think things through – then follow through.'

Edward Rickenbacker

Thank you for picking up this book. Most of you who do so, will not be taking this book home. Instead, you'll very soon put it right back on the bookstore shelf you found it. And that's OK.

A sad Malaysian statistic, which trumpets the unpleasant truth that we are a nation of non-readers, almost makes that a certainty. The average Malaysian reads two books a year. Now, like most writers, I possess a well-developed (probably, over-developed) sense of my own importance. But my hubris stops short of assuming everyone who picks up this new book will buy it.

Still, I have tried to stack the odds a wee bit in my favour. Here's how.

Way back in the early 1990s when I was a staff writer for *Malaysian Business* magazine, I had the

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privilege of interviewing Kenneth Blanchard of *One Minute Manager* fame. He was in KL back then for a conference. Blanchard went on record saying that studies in the U.S. had shown that the majority of Americans who buy books only get as far as Chapter 1 before grinding to a halt. Blanchard said that was why he wrote his blockbuster *The One Minute Manager* as such a short book: So people would finish it!

That has always sounded like good advice. But I've taken my time heeding it. You see, this is my fifth published book. Three of the four preceding ones have been rather fat works, so I feel no compunction right now to have to prove to anyone that I can, when necessary, write 'long'! (If you've ever attended one of my financial planning seminars – be it a free public one or a paid corporate one – you will be able to attest to my natural predisposition to also talk 'long'.) But I have no desire to go through life cultivating a reputation as a windbag, so this is my editorial toast to that all-important soul of wit: BREVITY!

But, quite apart from that goal, which incidentally has some of my closest friends cheering, there is another crucial reason I kept this book as short as possible: The subject matter of *Liberty!* is getting out of debt. And that's serious business.

I believe many, many people – including hordes that would honestly describe themselves as traditional non-readers – can benefit from it. So, I've

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kept it short to increase its appeal and thus its usefulness to time-pressed readers who increasingly feel they need 25 hours a day – excluding sleeptime! – just to meet all the expectations of demanding bosses (both at home and in the office).

If you're mired in debt, I hope this book helps you get out of debt fast – far faster than you ever dreamed possible.

The subject of debt eradication is something that is close both to my heart and my wallet. I write from excruciatingly hard-won experience.

I studied, worked and lived in England from 1982 to 1989. In that time, I did astoundingly well in my 'A' Levels, tolerably okay in my degree and atrociously in my finances. By the time I returned home to Malaysia, two days before my work permit and visa ran out, I owed loads of friends, relatives and credit card companies money. It took years of disciplined sacrifice in Malaysia to dig myself out of the hole I'd dug in England. Along the way, I learnt first hand what Benjamin Franklin meant when he wrote: "If you would know the value of money, go try to borrow some; for he that goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing."

Old Ben knew what he was talking about. And what he had to say to his 18th century audience has even greater application to those of us who inhabit this sliver of history tagged as 'the early 21st century'. So, if you're struggling with a load of debt that

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causes sleepless nights, anxious days and a plummeting sense of self-worth, you are not alone. I've been there.

And I'm here to tell you that there is hope. I'm also here to tell you that there is a way out.

Prayer helps. But, frankly, in this regard God truly does choose to only help those who help themselves. You're going to have to decide IF you want to help yourself. Reading this book is a good way to start. An excellent second step would be to share the teachings found here with friends who are in even worse shape than you're in now. The best way to learn something is to teach it.

I believe God hard-wired us that way so that in giving of ourselves, we gain the most. The crucial third step, therefore, is to reread this book, mark it with every conceivable highlighter, marker, pen or pencil at your disposal, and then apply it to the different problem debt areas in your life. The stuff in here can work like magic.

I do hope you allow some of that magic to rise off the printed page and waft through the open door of your life.

Shall we begin?