

FOR QUESTIONS 36 TO 40, READ THE PASSAGE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

One day 15 years ago, an American man decided to give up his fortune in search for a richer life. Dariel Garner was once worth hundreds of millions of dollars, owning 40 companies on four continents. He is now a social activist and lives with his partner in an earthship in the New Mexico desert and barely has two pennies to rub together.

It all started when one day, his doctor said 'Dariel, I really envy you. I can imagine you and your wife sitting in your resort, watching the sunset looking out over the Sierra Nevada mountains. Except that I know you won't be there. You'll be dead.' At that moment, he realised how unhappy he was. He weighed around 166 kg at the time and recognised that he was eating himself to death. The fact that he was unhappy came as a surprise to him because it didn't fit into his or society's concept of being extremely wealthy and successful.

Then one evening when he was going to dinner in his private dining room at his private club "the hostess there touched me on my shoulder as she was seating me. In general, no one really touches very rich people because you're set so far apart from people that it's like you're a totally different class. Her touch made me recognise that I was human: that I could be loved, and that I could love." The next day, he went on a diet and started losing weight and began a process of transforming his life.

He went from being in the top 100 of the top 1 per cent in terms of wealth in the USA, to way down somewhere in the bottom 1 per cent. He is now extremely poor by financial standards. But he doesn't

feel the need to have anything anymore. He says that his life is so much richer in every single way because he's connected to life itself, to the people and to the environment around. He enjoys reading, walking, growing food and his work in social activism.

"It's not just dollars that define wealth: it's also power, linkages, and the ability to make much more money. You end up forming a cohort of other extremely wealthy people and become tremendously disconnected from society." He used to sign pay roll cheques for his staff every week because he felt in doing so he would have some sort of communication with them. He'd see their yearly earnings and realise that it was approximately what he'd make in an hour. This troubled him deeply and he couldn't comprehend how they could live on that. He decided to give it all away to charity and see for himself.

To his mind, society idealises wealth, money and the symbols that come with it: diamond rings, vacations to the Caribbean islands, etc. Wealthy people are idealised and idolised but also hated to some extent. When he was incredibly rich, he says his heart was completely closed to everyone around him and he spent money with **alacrity** on himself for himself, but only very carefully and rarely on others. "How can you maintain wealth when you know that everybody you see has less than you, and you can so easily share? Only by closing your heart down!"

His life has taught him that transformation is possible: "We can drop the stories we live with. We can change the world and, the way it is at the moment, we have to. There's no choice about it."

36. Choose the best title or heading for the passage
- A. Finding Happiness in Poverty