

focused on "improving his mind" and body. This idea of self improvement is central to the American dream. Gatsby has his financial security just like many other characters within the novel, even though it is set in a time where wealth isn't apparent within every household. As the reader meets Gatsby character the idea of his dream becomes more apparent and is explored further in later chapters.

A Romance of Money –

Malcolm Cowley called "Gatsby" a "romance of money." Money is at the heart of the book and is what gives its hero the foolish idea that he could buy the love of Daisy Buchanan. Money is what brings the narrator Nick Carraway to New York, where the stock market was on a perpetual bender in 1922, the year of the novel, and what ultimately drove him back to his safe, traditional Midwest. Money also gave Daisy and her boorish husband Tom the right to be "careless people" who "smashed up things and creatures ... and let other people clean up the mess they made," like the body of Myrtle Wilson on the road in the Valley of Ashes. The main characters within the novel all (with the exception of Wilson and Myrtle) come from a background where they have a financial security in time time where wealth isn't apparent in every family home. This is further enhanced as the story progresses and the reader is presented the character of Gatsby.

Throughout the novel it becomes apparent that Gatsby is some sort of minor celebrity, where people know his name and his background of "lavish" and "extravagant" parties, however is rarely known in a personal manner to those of the upper class population attending these parties. Further into the novel we find that Gatsby also known as "James Gatz" comes from a not-well-to-do, working class family and was a college drop out that joined the armed forces. Whilst Gatsby was in training he met the young and beautiful Daisy who captured his heart immediately, yet also broke it quite quickly too when she sent him a letter whilst he was out at war stating she had married Mr. Tom Buchanan, the rich college football player. This letter became the starting point of shift from "Major James Gatz" to "Jay Gatsby" and to allow his wealth to attempt to win back the heart of his darling daisy. Gatsby found himself taking an illegal route to his wealth by taking advantage of the prohibition act where he became a bootlegger with the help from Meyer Wolfsheim and other "gangsters" in which Fitzgerald created.

Malcolm Cowley declared that this novel was a "romance of money" which becomes clear he is indicating that of Gatsby and Daisy's love affair. In chapter seven, Gatsby says 'Her voice is full of money', referring to the delicate way in which Daisy speaks and pronounces her words, which reinforces Cowley's declaration. Within the novel Gatsby has only just become involved in money and wealth which gives him the title of "new money" unlike daisy who comes from a wealthy family background, giving her the title of "old money" which allows the combination of the genre- 'The American Dream'. The "old" and "new" money love affair between Gatsby and Daisy allows Cowley's suggestions to shine through. To some extent in this particular romance, Jay Gatsby has lived the perception of 'The American Dream' and has almost become the personified version of what is expected to be 'The American Dream'.

Another example of Cowley's reference to "a romance of money" is the affair between Tom Buchanan and his mistress Myrtle Wilson. It is apparent that even though Tom Buchanan leads a life as a upper class citizen that doesn't have money struggles and that doesn't need for anything, and Myrtle comes from a working class background and wants for a lot of things that are deemed "normal" to have to Tom, their paths still cross over in the 'Valley of