

When you invest in stocks, you're continuously evaluating risks against a likely profit. However, what if there is an entire part of the risk that you didn't know existed? Investors are accustomed to being careful about the risks of the market at large like a stock market tumble or the health of a specific company. However, one of the utmost risks to our investments derives from us and not from the stock market.

Behavioral risk, or the susceptibilities of the investor herself, is one of the main factors to deal with during investment. Whether you like it or not, we are irrational. We get overwhelmed by data and can even become frightened or overemotional. Even though we may like ourselves intuitive and perceptive, our judgment can be influenced by slick sales ideas and clever marketing.

This might seem terrible; however, don't fear! In these chapters, we'll deal with investor fallibility directly by recognizing likely consequences. Also, we will look at practical approaches for making smart and insightful investment choices.

Chapter 1 - We overrate our skills in life, and when we make investments.

It's instilled into us from an early age that we need to think positively and be confident in ourselves and our abilities. However, what if that confidence is really refraining us?

In a revealing study, American high school students were questioned on how they thought their math abilities compared to those of the remaining of the world. A huge majority believed that they were some of the top internationally. The reality is that the students of America are average at math. This is an illustration of overconfidence bias. Meaning, people believe wrongly that they achieve in a way that is superior to the other people.

Similarly, Tom Peters and Robert Waterman, both organizational researchers did a study where they asked workers to compare themselves with one another and score themselves on such skills as interpersonal skills and physique. 100% of the workers assumed that they were better

than average at relating to other people. 94% assumed that their athletic ability surpassed that of their colleagues!

Not everybody they interviewed could have possibly been a master of diplomacy with a bodybuilder's shape. Clearly, the workers overestimated themselves.

However, what can a bit of self-confidence hurt, even though it's misplaced? Isn't that better than being extremely insecure?

When we talk about investing, having a wrong view of your skills can hurt a lot.

If you trust that you have unique skills, you will probably acclaim any successes on the stock market to your exceptional skill. However, you'll consider that any losses are circumstantial and beyond your control. That is known as a fundamental attribution error. It means that we're incapable of judging the impacts of our actions precisely. This viewpoint hinders you from learning from your errors and developing as an investor.

You may reason that the guidelines of the stock market don't relate to you. That can make you ignore any risk and allow you to make irresponsible decisions since you're really confident in your gut. Also, you might be less likely to look for outside assistance from a trusted advisor.

Being humble about your skills and being capable to know and learn from your mistakes are significant to being a good investor.

Chapter 2 - Our emotions can influence our capability to make the right choices.

Who doesn't like crying while watching a sad movie, or feeling happiness flowing through your veins when falling in love? Severe emotional conditions make life fun. But, when we talk about investing, severe emotions can hinder your decision-making abilities.

In a study that was done by Jennifer Lerner a social psychologist, participants were split into two groups. One group was told to watch a clip from a sad movie and they were told to write about

it. The second group was told to watch a short, boring video clip about fish. Later, they were told to write about their day-to-day routines.

Afterward, the researchers did a second behavioral experiment where they asked those same participants to act as if they were selling and buying pens. They discovered a clear association between good decision-making and an absence of strong emotion. The sellers in the group that saw the boring movie were much smarter when determining the amount they should sell their pens for. Generally, they charged 33% more than the group that saw the sad movie.

Therefore, a sad investor is possibly a naïve investor. However, what of positive emotions, such as excitement?

In Dan Ariely, a behavioral economist 2009 book, *Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces that Shape Our Decisions*, published the findings of a study intended to measure the effect of excitement on decision-making. In his study, he interviewed a group of students about their sexual life, asking questions such as, “Would you cheat on a partner?” and “Would you have sexual intercourse without a condom?”

When he first asked these questions, the majority of students answered both questions with “no.” Afterward, the researchers then revealed to the same group of students some pornographic pictures. Then he asked them the same questions again, with some astonishing findings. Students’ answers showed that they were 136% more probably to cheat on a partner, and 25% likely to have unprotected sex than before they had seen the pictures.

Feeling urge and excitement had made these students more irresponsible. They knew definitely that their behavior was reckless; however, at that point, they weren’t capable to practice control. The counterparts with investing are clear. Definitely, investing is not like seeing porn! But, making tense deals entailing such great personal stakes can also cause strong emotions.

As we have understood, both positive and negative emotions can impact your decision-making skills. However, how do we learn to remain calm and make rational choices? As we’ll understand in the next chapter, one of the best methods is to have an investment advisor.

Chapter 3 - One of the greatest investing choices you can take is to have an advisor.

Investors may possess the entire rules in their heads. They may have likely read a zillion books and realized that they have carefully plan and evade whim buying. But, knowing isn't enough alone.

This is the reason why having an advisor is important. Research has demonstrated that advisors have an important effect on assisting investors to make better choices and abide by the investment plans they have selected.

This guidance turns into important financial profits. Morningstar, financial analysts deduces that investors who have an advisor outstrip other investors by 2-3% each year.

Advisors can provide important guidance during a crisis. Let's say you had invested your whole life savings just to see the market fall in the financial crisis of 2008. That can send any investor into a panic.

Definitely, the majority of investors struggled after the crash. But, financial consulting firms Aon Hewitt and Financial Engines discovered that investors who had help during the crucial years of 2009 and 2010 really outdone other investors by 2.92%.

Advisors don't only assist their clients to survive hard periods by offering lists of statistics and chances. Also, the best advisors serve as behavioral coaches, offering their clients a much-required reality check when it comes to their emotional choices.

For instance, advisors can be a professional devil's advocates, assisting you to do a pre-mortem when thinking of an investment choice. By questioning you on many challenging questions, they can assist you to carefully think about everything that could possibly go wrong with an investment. When you're filled with eagerness, this may be the last thing you will feel like doing; however, it could prevent you from making huge losses. If the likely investment endures the pre-mortem, then it might only be a winner!

Definitely, not every advisor is good or right for what you require. Before employing someone, ensure that you interview her thoroughly about her qualifications, investment philosophy, and communication pattern. Most essentially, ensure that, together with investment advice, she's also an expert at behavioral coaching. As we have noticed, this is where the key value is.

Chapter 4 - Don't fear because of investment panic.

Let's assume you are investing some of your life savings in a company, and you realize that the company is being examined for fraud. Probabilities are you'll be swamped with feelings of panic.

Unluckily, as an investor, you'll be flooded with details by news organizations thirsty for scandal and catastrophe. If you're not careful, you'll be excessively influenced by such information, and eventually acting out of fear, rather than good sense.

Humans have a propensity toward catastrophizing; that is immediately you hear something frightening; you will instantly begin to think of the worst result that could happen. When you hear that your stock has taken a bit dip. You would probably be imagining that you will spend your retirement on the street, depending on your grown children for assistance.

The media treats all dip in the stock market as a frightening crisis, as a matter of fact; it is really common for your stocks to lose value occasionally. From time to time the value of stocks is overinflated, and when this occurs, people begin to sell their stocks collectively to profit from the high prices. This causes the value of the stocks to drop, occasionally losing more than 10% of their value. This is known as a correction, and it occurs approximately one time in a year.

Eventually, these dips really don't have any effect on the value of your stock portfolio. But, if your response is to instantly sell your stocks, this will cause your portfolio to suffer, because you will be selling them at a loss.

We're most frightened at times when the market is really safest. In periods of great affluence, you may become really confident; but, high valuations can be a sign of a bubble. The minute the price decline has occurred and the market has fixed itself, you may feel awful; however, as a matter of fact, it is a sign that the market is very safer since it reveals a more correct valuation.

Therefore, ensure that you don't jump to a conclusion at the first indication of a problem. Surviving hardship in the market is part of being a successful investor.

Chapter 5 – Know how to recognize a dubious company by assessing what the management is doing and not what it says.

We all have heard the warning stories about con artists working in Wall Street. No one desires to be fooled into investing in the next Ponzi scheme. However, how can we evade becoming victims of the Bernie Madoffs of this world?

We may assume that we'd be able to recognize a con artist, depending on our insight and powers of detection. Sadly, research has demonstrated that we're very bad at identifying someone that is lying.

In 2006, in a paper that was published in *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, Charles Bond, Jr. and Bella de Paulo both psychologists examined the findings of 200 studies about how people identify lies. They found out that just 47% of the time could people identify liars by observing their body language. That signifies that you'd be more probably to know who is lying by flipping a coin than by studying their behavior.

Even people that have skilled training are bad at identifying liars. In a study that was done in a prison, law enforcement professionals were told to attempt to identify the difference between a real confession from a prisoner and a fake one. They were successful just 42% of the time!

Therefore, what does this entail for investors attempting to determine whether we can rely on the leadership of a company? Honestly speaking, we need to stop paying attention to what executives are saying, and begin observing what they are doing.

Essentially, we have to watch how they are investing their personal money. The managers of a company have the greatest likely information about their own business. Is that motivating them to purchase their own stock? Or to sell it out as fast as possible?

A study that was published in 1992 by the private investment firm Tweedy, Browne, discovered that companies that have important insider purchasing patterns outdid other companies on the stock market. They achieved two to four times as much value during the same time. If insiders are staking on a company, it is probably to be a really good stake.

Rather than battling a losing fight to attempt to know if leaders are saying the fact about their companies, just observe where they invest their own personal money. Actions actually speak louder than words.

Chapter 6 - The highest price isn't usually right; therefore, when you are investing, choose value over glamour.

Would you pay the cost of \$52 for an old, burnt oven mitt? Suppose they told you that the oven mitt was for the well-known chef and cookbook author Julia Child, and it got burnt while she was making her first-ever set of delicious beef bourguignon?

Probabilities are you'd be very eager to check your pocket to get something with such an exciting and socially important past.

When we talk about buying stocks, we need to understand how irrational we can be about pricing. As a matter of fact, we regularly trust that a product is valuable since it is expensive, instead of assessing it on objective merits.

Baba Shiv a Stanford Professor did a study where he measured participants' brain activity in an fMRI machine as he gave them droplets of wine. He said to them that part of the bottles of wine was \$90 per bottle, and some cost just \$10. The scans revealed that the pleasure centers in people's brains got more intoxicated while drinking the wine they had been told was more

expensive. But, as you might have predicted, all the wines were just the same. Only believing that the wine was more expensive allowed them to get more delight from it.

Say that the price is exactly the same as quality, that may not be really an issue when we talk of buying wine; however, there can be serious penalties if you use that mentality to buy stocks.

Glamour stocks regularly emanate from start-ups and fast-growing companies. They increase in value rapidly and are really enticing to investors. But, if you purchase those stocks at the extreme point of their attractiveness, you may get a non-profit investment. You're paying high money for a thing that is most likely not going to rise in value extensively and might even lose money when the bubble bursts.

If you truly desire to make a logical investment in the stock market, you have to invest in value stocks. Value stocks are stocks that are frequently slightly unpopular since they emerge from companies that may be smaller and therefore doesn't have brand recognition or social reputation. They definitely won't be expensive. This signifies that they have the potential to increase in value. And because you bought them for a reasonable price, your investment is much less risky.

Selecting a value stock is counterintuitive, just like picking the child who gets selected last for the basketball team rather than the popular, lanky jock famous for scoring. However, just like how an unpopular child might amaze you by pitching a firm and solid defense, the value stock may probably fulfill the expectation, quietly becoming popular while glamour stocks rise and then crumble.

Chapter 7 - Be suspicious of being enticed by new and glamorous investments

The tulip visited the well-known in the Netherlands during the early 1600s. People were so amazed by its beautiful color, and a glamorous shape they had never found before in a flower. Tulips eventually turned out to be the crucial status representation. As its demand increased, its price also increased. People were ready to pay like ten times a worker's yearly salary for only a

bulb. In 1637, the tulip excitement crumbled hugely in what is assumed as the end of the first projected market bubble.

What is with the novel and glamorous that causes such huge enthusiasm? Nevertheless, the tulip bubble has been repeated time and time again in economic history.

A very current case is, definitely, the dot-com bubble, which had a lot of tragedies. People were really excited by the apparently boundless possibilities of the internet that they assumed that any investment in .com would be a certain gamble.

For instance, an internet start-up named eToys.com, established in 1997, had enticed a startling investment/ of \$8 billion by 1998, despite the fact that it could just report \$30 million in real toy sales. On the contrary, the conventional, "boring" toy company Toys "R" Us could brag 40 times as much in sales, with just \$6 billion in investment. Also, they had a website; however as they were considered as traditional and outdated, they didn't encourage investors' excitement.

eToys.com went bankrupt in 2001 and was eventually acquired by Toys "R" Us. Investors had been stopped by their delight from having a good, rational assessment of the company.

A related illustration can be observed with air travel, an industry the same with exoticism and excitement. All thanks to air travel, a trip that took numerous weeks by ship before can now be done just in a day. The influence on the way we live, work and consider the world has been endless.

But, investing in this industry for the aim of profiting has continuously been a losing fight. With huge fixed costs, strong labor unions, and firm pricing models, investors in air travel have lost money overall.

Therefore, when attracted to invest in something exciting and novel, we need to remember the photo of that beautiful, glamorous tulip with the enticing colored petals. Certainly, it is lovely to view. However, is there actuality behind that beauty? Does it actually deserve ten times your annual salary?

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Chapter 8 - We have to invest our money in alignment with our personal goals instead of other people's rules.

What amount of money is enough? There are a lot of several methods to answer that question. You could consider rules that say you have to possess ten times your yearly income saved to be financially free. Or you could compare yourself with your neighbors and determine that when you possess a posher Ferrari than their own, you will be flourishing then.

The best method to answer that question is really to look inward instead of outward. Every one of us has an exceptional "hierarchy of needs" – the things that are really essential to our satisfaction in life. After the clear normal human needs such as food and housing have been achieved, personal needs can vary exceedingly. Some people require more of their annual income in savings to feel fulfilled and pay for their children's education. For some people, it's really more essential to have ready cash at hand to pay for outings such as traveling around the world.

These values are your own standard, and they will influence how you invest. Having this standard clearly expressed to yourself can assist you to withstand the disorder of the market with your mental health undamaged.

For instance, if you understand that you will only require to access your savings in fifteen years, you won't be really worried about every single dip in the market since you are aware that there's time for the value of your stocks to make progress. Conversely, if you are presently helping an elderly parent with unpredictable health care expenses, you require an investment plan that is less risky in the short term, and which will enable you to have access to your money immediately when you have to use it.

Therefore, how do you ensure that your financial choices support your goals? One significant method is to really amend how you talk about your money. Barack Obama the former US President and his advisors were really aware of the influence of language when they decided to tag the money put into the economy after the Great Recession a "bonus." People were probably more likely to consider it as something more and spend it instantly instead of saving it.

We can make use of behavioral psychology to our benefit if we clearly label what the aims of our savings and investments are. One study revealed that low-income couples were very likely to save money for their children's college education if they put it in an envelope that had an image of their children's faces on it. It can be really encouraging to recognize the reason you are investing your money.

When next you're thinking of making an investment, think wisely about your personal needs and values and ensure that the choices you make fit with your goals and dreams.

The Laws of Wealth: Psychology and the Secret to Investing Success by Daniel Crosby Book Review

One of the key risks to investors doesn't originate from the stock market, however, it comes from their own actions. We are regularly emotional, irrational, and susceptible to extravagant thinking. We have to learn how to identify these weaknesses and try to fight them by seeking outside advice and investing carefully according to our personal aims.

Learn a few easy guidelines and disregard the remaining of the advice you get.

It's very easy to become totally overwhelmed by the tons of advice about investing that are present.

But, you don't have to be an expert on the stock market for you to become a good investor.

The same as how an amateur poker player can really go far if he basically learns to fold his worst hands and bet on his good ones, a novice investor can also become really skilled only by abiding by a few simple guidelines. For instance, he needs to learn not to react excessively to dips in the market and ensure to buy value stocks rather than glamour stocks.

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