

THE DOLLAR

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By Tim Kelly

One dollar. A small sum. Nothing to think twice about. But *I do*, you see. Yes, yes, you're thinking I must have spent *a hundred, two hundred times* that amount in an evening... and yes, you'd be right.

Once, you know, I drank a hundred-and-fifty-dollar bottle of French Champagne, and if you only knew what I've squandered on Thai whores! I'm not a poor man, no, no. Not at all. But I draw the line at some things. At some things I draw the line.

Oh, so you will happily give me a dollar? Yes, of course you would; who wouldn't? But is that the point? Is that really the point? The question I can't get out of my mind, the question that has *tormented* me, is: *why did he ask for just one dollar? One measly dollar?*

If he'd asked for a million, well then I'd have understood. Yes, I'd have his number. He'd have taken me to court. We would have fought, my lawyers against his: a fair fight. My reputation might have been in tatters and yes, I know, of course, I might have lost, he might have won - but at least it would have made sense to me, you see.

Of course, you wonder do I have a million dollars? Perhaps not, no, probably not. *But surely he should have asked for a million? Or half a million? A hundred thousand even?* Then I'd have been happy. But *one dollar?* One dollar! It is an insult. I won't pay, I tell you, I won't.

What? You say I have gone far enough. Don't go any further. But you don't know the whole story. No you don't.

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