



Oil on Canvas
40" X 30"
Charles H. Reinike III

The Golden Parachute

What goes up must come down. The financial crisis of 2008 has uncovered layer upon layer of obscene greed on the part of investors at all levels, but particularly on the part of those at the top. And even after their giant Ponzi scheme came to an end their greed did not. Executives like Richard Fuld lied about the solvency of their companies while taking huge bonuses and incentives that would have been obscene even if the companies were solvent. Executives were routinely leaving their companies in shambles with their huge compensation packages, which should have gone to shareholders.

Greed is a strange animal. It feeds on itself and devours rational thought. Times change, but the story stays the same. The Old Testament story of the golden calf reminds us that worshipping the wrong things can destroy us.

The Greek philosophic principle of the Golden Mean, *aurea mediocritas*, all things in moderation, becomes the lesson of the day.

Some of the symbols found in this painting:

Golden calf – Worshipping the wrong thing.

Arch – Symbol of passage, movement from one level of awareness to another.

Window – Window of perfection, eternity, reminder that there is something behind materialism.

NYSE – Symbol of financial world.

Stock graph – EKG of the financial world.

Golden parachute – Symbol of greed.

Storm clouds – Is the storm abating or about to arrive?

Stock tickertape – Financial timeline.