

## Photography is My Will to Power

### What's poppin, people?

It's Dante, walking around the Centennial Arboretum on this beautiful morning. Check out this big tree.

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### Rooted and Reaching

This tree is incredible. When I look at how a tree grows—planting its roots deep in the ground, extending its limbs into the sky, always seeking sunlight—I think:

***We too can grow.***

Like the tree, *we can stand firm and stretch toward the light*. We can grow through our photography.

Right now, I'm watching a squirrel leap from branch to branch. So elegant.

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### Movement as Art

As photographers, *our movement can become art*.

The way we walk, the way we talk, the way we press the shutter—it can all be part of a *living work of art*.

***Live your life like it's a living work of art.***

Through photographing, we grow.

Through photographing, we *learn*.

Through photographing, we discover why we even wake up in the morning.

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## The Photographic Frenzy

I treat photography as a way to **augment reality**.

To *extend my limbs outward* through the creation of new photographs.

Growth doesn't come from making "better" photos—it comes from simply photographing.

***To grow as a photographer is to photograph.***

Not about good or bad images. Just *more images*.

Daily images. Images from your soul.

I call this state the **frenzy**.

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## The Will to Power

Like trees competing for light, *we too compete*—through creation.

***Photographing is my will to power.***

In the gym, growth comes through hypertrophy: lift heavy, tear muscles, recover with food, sleep, and sunlight.

As humans, we need:

- Water
- Nourishment
- Rest
- Sunlight

And I believe:

*You too are undergoing photosynthesis.*

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## **Elevate the Mundane**

Photography is not just clicking.

It's the act of **elevating the everyday**—finding godliness in the ordinary.

*Creation is a godlike ability.*

That's why I love photographing with the **Ricoh GR**, using the high contrast black and white preset. It strips away distractions.

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## **Cherry Blossoms and Death** 🌸

I'm looking at cherry blossoms now.

They bloom quick, randomly, beautifully—and just as quickly, *they fall*.

*Amor fati. Love your fate.*

Just like the cherry blossoms, we are *finite*.

But if you embrace death, truly embrace it, then *every morning becomes a gift*.

You move through life with gratitude.

You wake up with **purpose**.

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## **Vitality is the Goal**

To remain curious, one must be *full of vitality*.

***The only life worth living is one full of vitality.***

Walk with:

- A strong gait
- Head held high
- Shoulders back
- Chest open

Treat life like an arena.

And through vitality, you can *fend off distractions*—the media, the noise, the hate.

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## **Clarity is Sacred**

Mental clarity.

Physical strength.

Spiritual curiosity.

***This is sacred.***

Success in photography flows from *physical health and sharp visual acuity*.

Push yourself—mentally, spiritually, physically—*every single day*.

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## **Growth = Creation**

Photography is hypertrophy for the soul:

- Recognize patterns
- Observe deeply
- Walk endlessly

- Stay curious

***Photography is the act of growing larger.***

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## **Use Technology to Augment Yourself**

With the Ricoh GR and small JPEG files, *you can produce endlessly.*

Augment your life *easily.*

Old ways like film and darkrooms are cool, but they're limited.

Digital = Infinite.

The Internet = The new frontier.

***Think of your website as digital land. Go conquer it.***

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## **Create Your Own Space**

Delete your Instagram.

Go to [WordPress.org](https://WordPress.org).

Host your name on [Bluehost.com](https://Bluehost.com).

Use the **Astra theme** like I do.

***Give yourself a blank canvas.***

Maybe I'll even make a tutorial on how to do all this. It changed my mindset completely.

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## Learn Through the Lens

I snapped a photo of the **Friedrich Schiller** statue.  
Typed it into ChatGPT and learned everything about it in seconds.

***AI is a teacher in your pocket.***

Photograph > Ask > Learn > Grow.  
Photography becomes a **learning tool**.

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## Final Thought: Strive Upwards

Walking around, photographing, existing...  
Yes, I'm a human bound by gravity, but I'm also:

***Striving upward through creation.***

Take the ordinary.  
Make it extraordinary.

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**Catch the dewdrops in the morning.**

Create. Grow. Evolve. 🌱