

You Are a Photographer

What's poppin, people? It's Dante.

Getting my morning started here in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.
Welcome to the **Centennial Arboretum**.

A Simple Notion: You Are a Photographer

Met this young man yesterday—Shaq.
Shout out to Shaq. Shaquille O'Neal.
What's good, what's good?

He told me how he always *knew* he was a photographer... but never really thought much about it. He's been going out, enjoying everyday life in the city, and that's been bringing him joy.

And **this**, to me, is the *beauty of photography*.

The Camera Inside You

We both have eyes—me and you, the viewer here.
Two eyes, connected to a brain, allowing us to see and perceive with sharp visual acuity.
In a way... **we already have a camera built into our bodies.**

"We have a sort of panopticon view of our surroundings."

We can look around, swivel our heads, and take it all in.
And life? It's full of things worth seeing.

Full of beautiful things to photograph.

Sight Is One Thing. Photographing Is Another.

To *see* is one thing.

To *photograph* is another.

Photography is about putting order to chaos.

It's about **taking your perception** and placing four corners around it.

It's how we make sense of this crazy world.

Shaq told me he's starting to tap into the mundane, finding beauty in the sunrise, in the people on the street, in fleeting moments. And now that he sees the world as a photographer...

everything's different.

The Most Democratic Medium

We all have phones. We all have cameras.

"Everybody can make a picture. But not everybody makes a photograph that shares a piece of their soul."

That's the difference.

A **true photographer** reflects their vision, their soul, their inner world.

Writing With Light

Let's go back to the roots:

- *Phos* means light.
- *Graphia* means writing.

Photography is writing with light.

Each photo is a line in your diary.
A visual journal of how you see and feel the world.
Cliché? Maybe.
But it's powerful.

You Are Creating on a Canvas

Walking through the world with a camera is like holding a **superpower**.
You're not just *watching* life happen—you're *participating* in it.

You're putting something on the canvas.
The world around you becomes your painting.

"You have a camera connected to your brain."

You now have a **purpose**, a way to find meaning in the mundane.

Seeing with Your Soul

To see something beautiful is easy.
But to evoke the sublime?
That comes from the soul.

Photography, at its best, *transcends logic*.
It's subconscious. It's heart-driven. It's intuitive.

"A photograph is a reflection of your courage—of your heart."

It takes *courage* to move through the world and engage.
To *press the shutter* and say **yes** to life.

Life Is Outside the Frame

Don't get trapped in the four corners of your frame.
Life is bigger than any single photo.

Recognize the infinite potential around you.
Get into that **flow state** where curiosity leads, and logic fades.

Forget what you think you know about photography.
Just go out and photograph what *moves you*.

Photographing Is a Daily Practice

No matter how mundane it gets—
press the shutter.

Ask *why*.

Stay in wonder.

“Wield your camera like a sword to strike through the heart of chaos.”

That’s how you reflect the soul of the street.

That’s how you find **harmony** in everyday spontaneity.

Your Life Is the Story

Don’t look for a story.

Your life is the story.

Each image is a:

- Paragraph
- Sentence
- Word

In your personal book.

Let photography be your vehicle.

Get on the front lines of life.

Into the Abyss

There’s a path ahead. You could go left. Or right.

But what if...

“What if you marched into the abyss—into the void?”

That's where we thrive.
Through the chaos. Openly.
And when you come out the other side, with your photographs in hand?

You've **championed the day**.

The Sublime Shutter Click

In photography, time melts away.

There's no past.
No future.
Just *now*.

With each click, you affirm life.

From **dawn to dusk**, you keep going.
Because the world is overflowing with moments.

This Is Your Superpower

You are a photographer.

"This is a very empowering thought."

You can go out and explore endlessly.
Photograph your way through life.
Not for likes. Not for validation.
But because it's *who you are*.

Final Thoughts & My Gear

Time to start my day.
Out for my morning walk.
Camera in hand—*as always*.

- **Ricoh GR IIIx**
- **Small JPEGs**
- **High contrast, black & white**
- Cranked to the max.

Visit dantesisofo.com

Check the **Start Here** page for my camera settings.

Give it a try. It will liberate the way that you photograph.

And I believe—
it will **bring more joy** into your life.

Peace.