

Why Photography Is Empowering

Good morning, Philadelphia.

What's poppin, people? It's Dante. Just getting my morning started here in Center City, Philadelphia.

I've got the **Ricoh GR III** snapshotting my way through the morning, and today I'm thinking about something real simple:

Why photography is empowering.

The Camera Turns the Mundane Into Magic

You know, I believe photography *provides the photographer with this empowerment*. When I'm out in the world—wherever I may be—there's **infinite novelty** and infinite ways for me to articulate things within the world itself.

“With a camera, everything becomes extraordinary.”

When I'm walking alone and observing, I drop into that **flow state**. I'm not overthinking or wandering mentally. I just listen to that **inner conscience** and let it guide me.

Whatever it tells me to do—I photograph that.

And from that state? I find **infinite bliss and happiness**.

Why It's Unlike Anything Else

Photography empowers in a way that no other art form or hobby can.

“Drop me anywhere in this city, and I’ll find a way to cultivate joy, curiosity, and meaning.”

That’s powerful. That’s *freedom*. That’s living with purpose.

It immerses you in the **infinite wonder of the mundane**.

The more you shoot, the more **hyper-aware** you become—of light, of patterns, of people, of rhythms.

“You become in tune with the rhythm and the beat of the street.”

And while you're in that rhythm, **you exist outside of time**.

You're not in the future. You're not stuck in the past.

You're just *snapshotting your way through the day*—

trying to **immortalize your soul through the medium of photography**.

A Voice of Your Own

“You can’t live forever, but at least you can make a photograph.”

That's it right there. That’s the empowering thought.

When life feels routine—like you’ve seen and done it all—

a camera lets you rediscover the world with **fresh eyes**.

That’s the superpower.

The ability to articulate what you see in a way only **you** can.

I like to **go against the grain**, literally and creatively.

I crank the grain to the max in my Ricoh. That grit? That texture? It’s beautiful.

It’s my voice. And photography *lets me speak it*.

The Flow of the Street

“Here comes the stream, the early morning flood.”

You let life flow *toward* you.

You don't force anything. You don't need anything.

You're just *being*—open, receptive, grounded in the moment.

Sometimes you flow **with** the stream.

Other times, you go **against** it.

And either way, photography keeps you aligned with *your own rhythm*.

Why I Wake Up

“Photography gives me the reason to wake up in the morning.”

It's more than just a medium.

It's an **excuse to go outside**, to move my body, to be present, to walk endlessly.

Even when nothing's going on—no people, no action—

something as small as the light reflecting off a puddle can stir your soul.

“Thank God for photography. Because now I can find infinite novelty in the mundane.”

What It's Brought Me

Without photography, I wouldn't have...

- Traveled through Israel and Palestine
- Volunteered on a kibbutz
- Slept in mosques

- Explored deserts
- Documented baptisms
- Slept under thatched roofs
- Chased rainbows around the world
- Walked the slums of Mumbai
- Climbed pipes and stood on cliffs in Mexico City
- Strolled lakes in Hanoi
- Reconnected with my roots in Rome
- Explored the unknown—again and again

All of this... because of a camera and curiosity.

A Final Thought

“You’re born alone. You leave this world alone. What you take with you are the experiences, the wisdom, and your relationship with the world.”

Before I go,

I’m going to express my **will to power** through photography.

I’m going to *keep pressing the shutter*.