

## Philadelphia Is the New Athens

### What's poppin', people?

It's Dante, currently walking through Jefferson Station here in Philadelphia. It's a bit rainy today, so I stepped inside. And yeah—today's fun thought is about *walking* and *exploration* and why I truly believe walking is one of the greatest joys in life.

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### The Joy of Walking

Walking's the greatest joy in life because:

- Your muscles are contracting
- Your body's moving
- Your hormones are firing

You *literally* give yourself this sensation of bliss—dopamine spikes, testosterone flows, and you just feel *good*.

*"You can derive all of your pleasure from your feet and your legs and just the movement of your body."*

And look, pleasure isn't bad if it's something this simple. Like... it's not like walking ever hurt anyone. It's not hedonism—it's embodiment.

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### Barefoot Life

I've been wearing barefoot shoes for over two and a half years now. Changed *everything*.

Now when I walk:

- I can feel the concrete
- I can feel the grass
- I can feel the gravel
- I can feel the water when it rains

All those sensations underfoot—*that's data*. That's life. There's something about the *novelty* of walking, the *texture* of different surfaces, that fires up neural pathways in a way you just don't get if you're numbed by rubber soles.

*Walking barefoot → novelty → neuroplasticity → joy.*

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## Photography and Meaning

Then you add in photography?

Now it's *purposeful wandering*.

I pull the camera out of my pocket while I walk, and suddenly I'm *creating*—I'm providing life with meaning.

*"Meaning is found through curiosity."*

It's not something the world gives you. It's something you *cultivate*—from the inner child, from the intuition, from the heart. And that's why I photograph.

- Because it connects me to that childlike curiosity
- Because it makes the mundane *radiant*
- Because it gives meaning to solitude

*“Despite how monotonous the routine may be of just walking by yourself all the time—it’s so meaningful.”*

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## **The Flâneur Mindset**

I’ve basically been marching in solitude for the past three, four, five years. Every day I’m out here, working on this new black-and-white process, and honestly, it’s *fun*. Like genuinely fun.

Walking slowly. Observing life. Letting it all *flow toward me*. Wandering like a flâneur. And I’m *prepared*.

- Camera’s in hand
- Heart’s open
- Eyes are sharp

And yeah, today seems like one of those big protest days. But I’m down here in the underground, staying dry, avoiding the noise, and chasing light. I just made a photo of a hand—reflections, symmetry, weird layers of glass and people looking on. That kind of moment, that rush, that *dopamine hit*—you can’t fake that.

*“You intuitively throw the camera at whatever piques your inner curiosity.”*

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## **The Light and the Gloom**

It’s gloomy today. No sun. And yeah, I *do* think there’s a real connection between sunlight and joy. When the sun’s gone, the joy’s... dulled a little.

But even on days like this, I share these thoughts because maybe it helps you see walking—and photography—in a new way. On a *physiological* level, it’s powerful.

*“There’s nothing more powerful than that feeling of dopamine when you make an image of something and it scratches your curiosity.”*

And that’s what we replace in the modern world, right?

- Endless media consumption
- Hedonism
- Alcohol
- TV
- Protests
- Outrage cycles
- Distractions

All that... instead of *just walking* and *making pictures*.

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## **The Superpower of Inner Child**

This is what I’m thinking more and more about:

*“The inner child is the ultimate superpower in life.”*

Let it come out. Let it play. Let it speak through:

- The way you walk
- The way you speak
- The way you dress
- The way you shoot

Look at me today—blazer, black shirt, barefoot shoes. This is how I feel most myself. Comfortable. Curious. Alive. And I think that’s the point.

*“Nothing can break your love for life if you allow your inner child to come out and play.”*

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## Let Go of Meaning to Find It

And maybe...

*“In order to find more meaning in life, you have to let go of the idea of finding more meaning in life.”*

Just *be a kid* again. Take your shoes off. Run around. Be weird. Be free.

Some days my ideas are sharp. Some days they're scattered. But that's the beauty of just *streaming consciousness* and letting go.

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## Philadelphia: The New Athens

Every time I look around, I feel it.

**Welcome to the New Athens.**

Philadelphia *is* the New Athens.

*“I'm gonna pull up to the symposium with my feet out like Socrates.”*

And to the protesters out there... hey yo:

*“Just download Coinbase. Buy Bitcoin. Go home and chill.”*

It's that simple. i