

Why I Chose Leisure Over Productivity (and Never Looked Back)

What's popping, people?

It's Dante. I'm walking here through what feels like the *Garden of Eden* — Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. And I've been thinking...

Thinking about this cult we live in.

The **cult of productivity**.

Everywhere you look, it's go-go-go. Hustle. Grind. Optimize. Perform. But me? I'm done with that game.

I **embrace a life of leisure**.

And no, I don't mean laziness.

I mean *true leisure* — **otium**.

What Is Leisure, Really?

“Leisure is the ultimate virtue. It's the ultimate good.”

When I say leisure, I'm talking about:

- Sitting under a tree and watching squirrels bounce between branches
- Wandering aimlessly through the woods with no destination
- Reading a book just because
- Making art for no one but yourself

That's where life begins.

Not in the doing. Not in the striving. Not in the checklist.

But in the *being*.

You Withdraw, But You're Not Escaping

We've all been brainwashed to think that value comes from accomplishment.

But I've found that to live fully, you have to **detach**.

Withdraw.

And not in some bitter, angry, "fuck-the-world" way.

No.

You withdraw because you *see clearly*.

You realize none of it — the busyness, the events, the endless grind — holds real meaning.

So what do you do instead?

You **spend time with God**.

You move your body.

You breathe.

You observe.

You think clearly — because you're fasted and present.

And you find yourself thriving. Full of vitality. No need for external stimulation or validation.

You just **are**.

Modern Wealth Is Sunlight and Freedom

“The ultimate privilege in this modern world is having the sunlight kiss your skin while you have a grin on your face.”

That’s it. That’s the gold standard.

Modern wealth is:

- Walking endlessly for no reason
- Laying under a tree without a clock ticking in your mind
- Being free to think your own thoughts and follow your intuition
- Having a strong, healthy, fasted body and a clear, focused mind

This is the life worth living.

Not trapped in the loop. Not seeking status or rewards.

But just living. Seeing. Moving. Feeling.

Back to Work — The Real Kind

I’m not saying do nothing forever.

But I believe in **virtuous work** — work like this tree here.

Months ago I elevated it. Trimmed it so you could actually see the trunk.

Still getting strangled by ivy, but progress is progress.

That’s the kind of effort I believe in. Real, grounded, living work.

Not clicking buttons on a glowing rectangle for 12 hours. Not optimizing your calendar like a maniac.

Final Thought

Choose otium. Fuck negotium.

I'll just be chilling.