

How to Design a Life of Leisure and Escape Hustle Culture

What's popping, people?

It's Dante.

Every morning I walk through the park and think:

Where is everyone going?

Where are we all rushing off to today?

The streets of Philly are filled with people scurrying around like anxious, tired bees. Fumbling with their things. Half-asleep. Hungover from a weekend of alcohol and TikToks. Everyone's in a rush to be "productive."

And I get it. That's the world we live in.

But **this modern world is deeply unnatural.**

What Is Natural?

Leisure isn't laziness. Leisure is a return.

A return to what is *natural*. To what is *good*.

To what is *righteous*.

It's crazy when you think about it—we spend most of our lives inside.

Inside buildings. Inside boxes. Inside systems.

But when I step outside and move my body through open space, I *exit* the passage of time.

I return to the present moment.

And **that's where peace lives.**

Your Soul Dies Indoors

When you're indoors too long, your soul wilts.
But outside? With the sun on your skin and the trees overhead?

You remember.

- What it feels like to *just be*
- What it means to move with no destination
- How natural it is to think your own thoughts, not the ones pushed at you

This world wants you stuck in the past and obsessed with the future.

Crunching numbers. Chasing goals. Locked into a loop.
But the only time you're *truly living* is when you're not striving at all.

Make Your Own Game

This whole system was designed with preset rules.
Work. Save. Strive. Consume. Repeat.

But what if you said:

“Nah. I’m playing my own game.”

That’s what leisure is to me.
It’s *refusing* to chase modern success—money, fame, followers—because you’ve seen clearly that it’s not worth it.

And it’s not about hating society.
It’s not nihilism.
It’s *clarity*.

You opt out because you've tasted something better.
Because you've caught a glimpse of paradise, and now you can't unsee it.

The Courage to Be Free

Leisure takes balls.

To say no to the hustle.
To walk instead of run.
To **be still** in a world addicted to motion.

It's not always easy.
You're going against the grain.
But maybe that's your superpower.

And when you finally release the need to grasp and strive and *prove*,
you become **free**.
You become **light**.
You become like a **bird in flight**, dancing from tree canopy to tree canopy.

Purpose Is Movement

Purpose comes from putting your feet forward.

Look at the word: *purpose* — it literally means *to put forth*.
So every day I walk. I create. I photograph.
And that's how I move forward.

Photography for me is magic.
It's my dance. It's my song.
The light hits the world, and I get to draw with it.

Every street corner becomes a canvas.
And with a camera small enough to fit in my pocket, I stay in the flow.
I move with purpose. I create meaning.
But on my own terms.

Everyone's got to find their own way.
Nobody's going to hand you your meaning.
You've got to design your life from the inside out.

The Ultimate Privilege

The ultimate luxury isn't money. It's sun on your skin.

It's:

- Roaming freely
- Thinking your own thoughts
- Creating art without asking permission
- Having a body that moves and a mind that breathes

That's *astonishing*. That's *holy*. That's *freedom*.

Bees and Birds

As I watch the bees buzzing in and out of their little hive, I think about the idea of productivity.

Why are you so productive?

For what? For who?

You don't have to be like the bees.

You don't have to toil endlessly in a system that was never made for your flourishing.

You can be like the bird.

Fluttering. Singing. Dancing in the air.

Light as hell.

Still provided for.

Final Thought

Design a life of leisure. Disregard the rules.

Play your game your way.

This, right here—this life of leisure—is the life worth living.