

## Treat the World Like a Video Game

What's poppin', people? It's Dante.  
Hey, look — a rock.

This morning I'm thinking about the idea of *treating the world like a video game*. Remember **Zelda**? You'd lift boulders, explore hidden caves, collect rupees, and ride across vast terrain in *Hyrule*. There was always something to discover — some mystery, some quest.

That's how I see life. That's how I see **street photography**.

Our **camera is like our sword**, slicing through chaos, giving us the power to explore and engage with the unknown. Every alley, every stranger, every fleeting shadow becomes part of this open-world adventure we call life.

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## Voluntary Play vs. Involuntary Play

As kids, we wake up with curiosity — eager to catch the sunrise, to pick up rocks, to explore. But as adults, something changes. We start taking life *too seriously*. We begin to force ourselves to do things, turning what should be **play** into **work**.

To me, that's *involuntary play*. It's when the joy is gone and we're just going through the motions.

But **voluntary play** — that's where life happens.  
That's when you wake up each morning with enthusiasm, not because you *have to*, but because you *want to*.

When I pick up my camera, I'm not forcing it. I'm playing.  
I love life. I love photography. I love carrying a camera everywhere — because it lets me *create upon the world that is my playground*.

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## Find the Glitch. Play Your Own Way.

In video games, there's no single script. You can always find your own path. Maybe you find a **glitch** in *Skyrim* and sneak under Whiterun to loot the chests. Maybe you invent your own way to level up faster.

In the same way, I find my own "glitches" in photography — like **baking high-contrast JPEGs in-camera** so I can stay in a constant state of creative flow.

You don't have to follow the traditional route.

You don't have to put yourself in a box.

**Play the game your own way.**

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## The Spirit of Play

When you start seeing the world as a playground — where people, places, and light all become part of your game — life becomes joyful again. You rediscover that childlike curiosity.

So I say this:

***Voluntarily play. Don't involuntarily play.***

*Stop treating what you do as work.*

*Start treating what you do as play.*

Because the world is your playground — and you're the big kid with a camera, free to explore it endlessly.