

## I Thrive in Leisure

*What's poppin', people? It's Dante, laying under a tree here in the park, embracing the glory of the sun, gazing out toward a sculpture of Goethe, watching the clouds drift, the trees sway, the leaves wiggle.*

And I'm thinking about **leisure** — this ancient idea of *otium*, the sacred time away from public life, away from business affairs, away from the endless pressure to be “productive.” In the modern world, productivity has become its own religion. You're expected to strive, to grind, to constantly accomplish something in order to feel worthy.

But what if I were to say:

**Stop trying.**

Just *be*.

When you surrender under a tree and look up at the canopy, when you allow yourself to simply exist without forcing anything—**this is where real inspiration begins.**

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## The Noise of Modernity

There are so many distractions today:

- endless movies
- infinite food options delivered on demand
- endless playlists
- galleries and shows
- books upon books
- the infinite scroll

Modernity wants you to consume endlessly. But when you **turn inward**, when you cultivate solitude and actually *thrive* in it, something profound happens.

This, to me, is where life begins.

This is where your **true creative thriving** starts.

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## **Strip Yourself Bare**

If you're looking to find your purest, most authentic voice as an artist:

***Strip yourself bare.***

*Embrace the unknown.*

*Go out into the forest.*

*Surround yourself with nature.*

*Seek solitude.*

We need to **reset** our dopamine receptors. We're constantly bombarded by whatever the algorithm thinks we want next. But the real question is:

**What are you consciously choosing to consume?**

Curate your feed.

Curate your mind.

Curate what enters your eyes, your body, your soul.

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## **Invest Your Time in Leisure**

What are you doing with your time?

Are you spending it frivolously, or are you *investing* it?

For me, I invest my time in **leisure** and **solitude** so that I can:

- find peace
- find clarity
- hear my own voice again

Because when I go out onto the street with my camera, I want the things I photograph to come from a place of **authenticity**. I want my images to reflect my **internal state**.

But that only happens by:

- creating, not consuming
- silence, not chatter
- presence, not distraction

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## **I Thrive in Leisure**

When I strip myself bare of the world's noise and return to the simple act of being alive, **that** is where I thrive.

I thrive in leisure.