Return to Sunrise

What's poppin' people it's Dante. Waking up here in the Garden of Eden. The first thing I found this morning was a bottle of motor oil on the ground — little reminders of life's strange offerings. I'm just walking toward the sunrise. It never fails to put a smile on my face.

The Ultimate Goal in Life

I think the ultimate goal is simple: **never miss another sunrise again**.

In this modern world, the greatest privilege is being outside in embodied reality — moving your physical body and feeling the sunlight kiss your skin. Gratitude begins with the small things:

- The sun
- The fresh air
- A bottle of water
- The sights, the sounds, the smells
- The towering trees above

Everything else falls into place when you begin your day with gratitude.

Photography as Dialogue With the Divine

Carrying the Ricoh GR allows me to uplift these simple moments. Photography becomes a dialogue with the divine — a way to **transcend the material world** by creating new worlds in a fraction of a second.

For me, photography is life-affirmation. It's my daily *"yes"* to existence, my own practice of **Amor Fati** — the love of fate. And fate, ultimately, is death. So every photograph could be my last.

This is where I thrive: recognizing my own mortality while embracing the full range of human experience — sorrow, pain, greed, lust, imperfection, and the striving toward the divine.

Returning to the Childlike State

Each day, I want to return to that childlike curiosity — **Day One**, endlessly. Where nothing is known, everything is novel, and the world is fresh again.

Photography is just the excuse to engage with humanity, to explore reality through the internal state of my soul. The mundane lane becomes infinite when you walk it daily with a camera in hand.

Writing With Light

Photography: *fos* meaning light, *graphe* meaning writing.

My subject is light itself — always in flux, always changing. That's why you cannot make the same photograph twice. This is why I'm motivated to move (*movere*): two legs through the world, upward toward the sun, but never too close — gravity keeps me honest.

Flash, Flow, and the Ricoh Setup

Today I'm using the Ricoh GR III and GR IIIx with the GF-2 flash. Some notes on the setup:

- Manual mode for flash
- Single-point AF on the FN button to switch quickly with snap focus
- Small JPEGs (~4 MB)
- High contrast monochrome, everything maxed out
- Streamlined workflow: import → favorite → upload → done

No processing. No friction. Just **flow state**.

Enthusiasm as Divine Possession

Enthusiasm means *to be possessed by God*.
That's how it feels.
Something pushes me to keep clicking the shutter. I can't explain it. It's obsession.

What I can say is I love life, I love humanity, and I love affirming my existence through creation.

Tokyo: The Breakthrough

I just returned from Tokyo — thirteen days of shooting and 17,800 photographs — and I reached an entirely new creative frontier.

I dual-wielded the GR IIIx around my neck and the GR III in my pocket, switching constantly between:

- **Flash work in the streets**
- **71mm crop mode for abstract, woodblock-like compression**
- **Caravaggio-inspired chiaroscuro using pockets of light**
- **Slow-shutter experiments at night**

Tokyo's density, order, chaos, beauty, and culture all fed into this breakthrough. Shinjuku, Shibuya, and Harajuku formed a perfect daily triangle — a sacred route of experimentation.

Daily Deaths, Daily Births

Each night is a miniature death.
Each morning is a miniature birth.

I wake up grateful. I say to myself:

My next photograph is my best photograph.

That mantra carries me forward — finding meaning in the mundane and beauty in life's imperfections.

Carrying Tokyo Forward

Going forward, I'll keep:

- 71mm crop mode on the GR IIIx
- Flash experimentation on the GR III
- Slow-shutter night techniques

These breakthroughs feel like a new language emerging in my photography.

Life in the Garden of Eden

Back in Philly now. Praise be to God. Praise be to Ricoh.

Wake up and smell the pine cones.