Why Photography Gives Me a Reason to Go Outside

What's poppin', people? It's Dante, currently walking along the Benjamin Franklin Bridge here in Philadelphia, photographing with the Ricoh GR IV Monochrome.

Wow, look at the beautiful clouds.

And yeah, today I just wanted to share with you some thoughts about **how photography gives me a reason to go outside and explore new places.**

Photography Gives Me a Reason Why

It's really simple.

When I come out with my camera, there's just this feeling that flows through me where it feels like there's infinite possibility.

I think one of the most practical things I can suggest is going out there to a place where you can look out towards the horizon, look out towards the distance, or towards the clouds.

I really find that to be powerful because when I go outside, there really is no reason why I should be walking on this bridge right now, right?

Like, why am I walking on this bridge?

But frankly, there's this incredible feeling of being on top of this bridge. You feel powerful being at an elevated surface. You feel inspired when looking out towards the distance.

You're on top of this man-made structure, looking at all the cars passing by. Everyone's moving. Everyone is going to and fro. The birds are flying.

I can look back towards the skyline and up at the clouds.

It's like, wow.

Do I really even need a reason why to visit this location?

It feels good. It feels right.

But photography ultimately gives me that reason because **I can get closer to life.**

I become more aware of what's right in front of me.

You Find Little Surprises

And without the camera, maybe there wouldn't be any reason.

Wow, look at this I just found.

See, this is beautiful.

You find these little surprises.

Look at this beautiful sweater I'm photographing. That's amazing. Beautiful contrast against this backdrop here with the clouds and the sky.

It's like, do I really need a reason why?

Photography gets me there.

> *Photography is like a real superpower because it places you in that mode of living and being where everything is fascinating.*

I'm looking at the way the light is reflecting off of a building all the way in the distance in relationship to the water moving and the clouds.

Without a camera, maybe you would just be walking like this.

You'd be looking at your phone, trying to distract yourself from some shit, going super fast.

I gotta get home. I gotta get home. I gotta go look at my computer.

But it's like, wow.

What a Privilege It Is to Be a Photographer

What a privilege it is to be a photographer.

What a luxury it is to find something like this that grounds you in reality, that has you open to everything and all of your surroundings.

Maybe photography is the reason why.

Why go outside?

Photography.

The joy of light and life.

The act of creation is this blissful sensation.

I feel like we all seek that good feeling of dopamine—that feeling of doing something or accomplishing something.

Maybe these days it's more difficult to find that because we have so much to consume.

But photography gives you this ability to **produce.**

And the act of producing something outside, under the sun, while walking, is unlike anything.

Find a Place to Return To

Most practically, just go out and look at a view.

I'm sure you can find even a small hill in your town.

For me, the Ben Franklin Bridge has become this muse where I return to this space over and over again.

I think it's because I have this view of the clouds.

And every time I photograph the clouds and look at those images, I just say:

> *Wow, isn't life so grand?*

Look at the way the light peers through the clouds.

When you're shooting high contrast, you're obviously crushing the shadows, exposing for the highlights, and then naturally you create this abstraction of reality that's just fascinating.

Photography Makes Life More Interesting

Photography makes life more interesting.

Through photography, you can almost peer beyond the veil of reality and uncover new things despite life maybe seeming mundane.

That's really what fascinates me.

Something can appear totally ordinary in front of you, but the photograph transforms it.

The light changes it.

The frame changes it.

The monochrome image changes it.

And suddenly you're looking at reality in a completely new way.

A Reason to Wake Up and Explore

Photography gives me this reason why I wake up in the morning and go to this place, or do anything really.

It gives me a reason to walk.

A reason to explore.

A reason to look around.

A reason to remain open to everything that's happening in front of me.

And for that, I'm extremely grateful.

I think that's all I really wanted to say.