

POWER?

Digital power?

OK after getting a phenomenal 11 hours of sleep, and bitcoin, bursting through the seams... also my glorious testosterone boosting beef liver, beef short rib diet, ... the sun is shining gloriously, the future seems unlimited, some thoughts:

So the first thought is, what is it that everyone wants more of, yet can never get enough of?

Power.

Now I suppose the tricky question is... How does one quantify explain power, and also... How and why does it matter?

So the first thought is, we have to unlearn all this nonsensical ethics. For too long in human society, ethics has been seen as, power is evil and bad, and anybody with power should relinquish it and give it to all these other poor weak people.

Now I see power as a more metaphorical and also physiological thing. And also doesn't really have to deal with money.

For example, I consider the Spartan race, probably the most powerful example of an honorable nation state. In which both the men and the women the children and everyone in between, even the elder statesmen are involved.

Now, what's kind of interesting is, when you think about past empires, everyone is always trying to extend their reach in power in terms of expansion. Also if you think about conquerors like Napoleon etc.

Now I suppose the tricky thing is... A lot of people like to comment on Napoleon, and say something like, oh he should've just been happy being emperor of France and should have just retired. Instead of doing the foolish thing of invading Russia.

However if I were Napoleon... I don't think, that, you as an ambitious individual could just retire on your laurels, sit on your bum and just keep twiddling your thumbs. Notions of gratitude I think are misguided.

Digital power

I suppose also my will to power first of all, was enabled by digital. Digital technologies, even my blog as a digital publishing platform, no way in hell would have been able to become number one on Google for Street photography, be the first and only, if not the last street photographer to actually make a living from street photography.

And I suppose in today's brave New World of AI and photography, perhaps the thought of the artist photographer is, ... to think and consider photography as a means to (more) power?

What kind of power?

I think the big idea is, asking yourself what kind of power?

So the first obvious one is clout, prestige, variety, fame. For example it's better to have like one Elon Musk following you rather than 1 billion "normies" following you.

For the sake of what

Then I suppose also the more practical question is, more power for the sake of what?

So typically my thought is, **power is the great stimulus to life**. for example, if you see your wealth growing on average 60% a year, every year, for the next 10 years... powered by Bitcoin ,, you will be insanely happy, and optimistic.

Or even better yet... Strapping in for the MSTR roller coaster, which is essentially kind of like a Mach 10 stealth fighter pilot jet, getting your average 120% a year ARR, for the next 10 years... although sometimes suffering 40 to 80% drawdowns and dips,... my simple strategy is **don't take out a big leveraged position so you don't get liquidated or wiped out.**

And I also suppose the difficult thing is if you want more power, once again it's not a linear line, it's kind of like a big wiggly gamma line, gamma waves,,, life like roller coaster tycoon; insanely steep dips highs and high lows and lows, twist and turns, making you a bit dizzy and nauseous, wanting to throw up.

The artist as will to power

So what's kind of fascinating is, if you think about it... Who is it that everyone in society worships? Probably the entrepreneur or the artist, ideally the entrepreneur-artist.

For example, I think a lot of people forget that Elon Musk is actually insanely involved with the design of all the vehicle vehicles, especially with the cyber truck, even the early Tesla model S, to make it look less bubbly,.. and even Elon has the genius intelligence that in fact, people don't buy things for it to be good for an environment, but, they buy it to be sexy.

If you think about it, also for a man, a woman etc.... What is the ultimate biological active power? Procreation. Like having children.

This is starting to sound bad, but maybe... It is true that the truly rich powerful people of society desire to have children, it may be individuals with no power or hope, don't want to have children because they have no power?

economic power

I think in today's world, true power is economic power, capital power etc. Or political power.

But what does power mean in terms of an economic sense?

It's not to have a lot of gadgets and stuff, and not necessarily even having a high income or salary or whatever... The real truth is, those with real economic power don't have a day job, they don't work for Amazon Apple Facebook Google etc., as long as you receive a steady paycheck you have no power.

The true insight is those with real power are the capitalists with real capital, whether it be shares in a company, bitcoin, real estate, commercial real estate etc.

So once again you could be a loser in a Lamborghini, and no, a Lamborghini is not capital. If you're renting it leasing it or financing it you're still a slave.

so what

A big thought I'm having is, to these pseudo woke goody two-shoes who think that capitalism is bad and evil blah blah blah, they just haven't discovered bitcoin which is the most ethical capital known to the human race. Before that was gold. Because any peasant or individual could always buy slivers of a gold coin, and anybody with a Coinbase or a cash app account, could buy \$20 of bitcoin.

If you understand bitcoin as digital capital it changes everything. Because money is probably just like US dollars in your bank account, is like... Owning desirable real estate, or gold bars in a safe. or if you're John Wick, having your gold coins buried under the cement of your basement, etc.

So now what

I think a very underappreciated thing about photography is the ability to create art in instantaneously, magically, digitally.

The more I think about this deeply, digital is like highly underappreciated. Like it's kind of strange how everyone's so into film photography and whatever... Given that they probably have some sort of digital banking account, they all have digital

iPhones, and send digital messages and emails, can you imagine trying to be a productive office worker in which you're just mailing stamps all day?

the camera is not power

I think a simple shortcut people have is, if I own this more expensive camera I shall gain more power. The formula:

The more expensive my camera is, the more powerful I shall become.

I actually have a very very funny quote, which is obviously comedic:

if your photos aren't good enough your camera isn't expensive enough.

Even applied to real life, especially for people in LA:

if you're not happy enough your car isn't expensive enough.

Expenses & power?

A hilarious irony is irregardless of how rich you are, everyone wants a good deal. You don't want to pay \$1.2 million for that painting, you want to quote "only" pay \$800,000. You don't want to buy that mansion house for 50 million you'll want to only pay \$22M. You don't want to buy that watch for 1 million you want to pay "only" \$250,000 for it.

I think this is the hilarious thing about human nature is, how everything is injured and framed to everything. It is not ultimate values which matter but comparisons.

For example if you live in Vietnam, and you just have like a hybrid Toyota Prius or Corolla, you're still like 100 times richer than all these people who have to ride motorbikes for a living.

Or if in Cambodia earning more than \$200 a month, once again you're middle class or upper middle class.

So what should I do

So there are some game changers, AI and bitcoin.

First, AI can make you like 1 trillion times smarter, a better negotiator, and more productive. This is insanely critical if you work for a living, or, especially if you're a self-employed entrepreneur. Honestly at this point, not using AI is almost like somebody bragging that they don't have Wi-Fi or a 5G connection on their iPhone. Or somebody who brags that they take a donkey cart to work instead of just driving their car.

There's an interesting Cambodian proverb,

better to ride a buffalo across the mud, rather than swim through AI then becomes our digital buffalo, which helps us get more done.

ERIC

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Create your future:

1. April 19th, Sunday: CONQUER NYC STREET PHOTO WORKSHOP 2026
2. May 9th, Saturday: DOWNTOWN LA ART PHOTO WORKSHOP
3. June 26, 27th, 28th: Phnom Penh Cambodia (LIVE NOW!, the workshop of a century...)

Inspired?

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