

When Enough is Enough – Part 2.

The man had long ago come to terms with the concept of when enough is enough. He stayed out of others' lives, rarely offering advice on their choices about living. But he did wonder how so many people he met could live as they did, and he had not yet met a person who shared his overall impatience and frustration with life itself.

The man didn't like how society was structured in his country, so he chose to explore the world at eighteen years of age. The societies he experienced after arriving in Europe, whether for short or more extended stays, weren't any better for him. He also found religious beliefs quite annoying, and as science demolished the writings in the Bible, he learned it was better to keep his thoughts to himself. The hope and comfort that religion afforded people seemed reasonable to him, and while he didn't need those himself, he didn't need to extract them from others.

As he came to terms with his life, he first learned what he didn't want and crossed those off his list. Next were society's goals and his sphere of influencers' goals. As he aged, he increasingly understood that deep meaning quenched his life's thirst. A theme began to gain clarity from snippets of writings he read, songs he heard, and his search for a life of substance. The man studiously noticed creativity not just in nature but in writings and art from long ago, and within the humanity he travelled through now. Seeing others prospering within the luxury of creativity fueled his optimism and a newfound goal: he knew he needed to take care of his present and future needs so he could follow his creative path unhindered by the confines of not having secured enough to live.

Part One of his journey was identifying when enough is enough, and Part Two became finding out what he wanted to do when left to his own choices. The man didn't feel intimidated, skeptical, or even worried about success or failure in his path; instead, he felt freedom.

As the man listened to a range of opinions, from medical, religious, government, and even the structure of how society should be, which bordered on arrogance and ignorance, he began retreating into his world of solitude and creativity. Society loomed large, and culture, now crowdsourced, wielded its stunning ignorance and arrogance seemingly everywhere. Opinions, facts, experience, and ignorance began to matter equally, so truth was lost.

He turned his attention away from the world and society and immediately found solace and comfort within himself. He found new meaning in being alive and thrived within the confines of the life he created. His new life meant losing some friendships, responsibilities, and the tedium of what he had experienced as everyday life. Also missing was society's competition for success, but he didn't care because he had taken care of Part One, and arrived at Part Two: being able to do what he always wanted to do and live a life of deep meaning and purpose.

The man also found time to examine something that had baffled him most of his life: the emotion of love. He had often felt what he perceived to be love, from people to dogs to spectacular wonders of nature. But in his heart, he knew he didn't know what love felt like, and now, he decided to forego trying to find it any longer. He kept the memories of his deepest feelings, and instead of calling them loves, he let them be adjective-free memories. By doing that, the constraints of questioning whether he knew love fell away, and he could freely enjoy what he had.

Part Two of his life became simple, and his contentment and happiness grew exponentially because he learned to drop society's discourse on how life should be lived.

Written by Peter Skeels © 9-11-2025