### Shame

In my estimation, Mishima is the second most popular Japanese author behind Murakami.

He wrote about many ideals but more impressively he also lived them. He performed a coup attempt, breaking into a military base, and recited a speech to inspire the military to defend the Emperor and rebell.

He ultimately was unsuccessful and committed seppuku.

*"Where has the spirit of the samurai gone?"*

Is this a virtue or a vice?

Is death evil, neutral, or good?

### Movies

I hate how Asian culture is hyper mainstream. Yes, let's have inclusion and feminism and morals but can we be quiet and not obnoxious about it?

The person with value doesn't constantly proclaim how valuable they are. Marketing or representation?

Lord of the Rings has passed away. Soon it will be Harry Potter, Star Wars, and Marvel.

The future is anime and video games.

The classic books have died and my local bookstore has a manga section.

### Korean Culture

I dislike Korean culture.

I likely am uninformed and know nothing but what I have seen from Squid Game and other Korean media, the cultural mannerisms come off as completely fake and overly emotional to my deadpan boring self. The facial expressiveness and voice for any of their reactions is always uppercase.

Korean culture is incredibly popular and attractive, especially amongst women. Is it the skincare and hard value on aesthetics and external features that is appealing to women or something more intrinsic? Admittedly Korean fashion is enjoyable – conservative, cool, and comfortable. Their mix of masculine features and feminime is done properly – BTS and other KPOP boybands ride a good line, as opposed to the gender-bending clashing that is done so improperly and carelessly in the west to be.

boy bands are the female equivalent to male sports except with more hormones

### Storytelling

The lessons we learnt from film making are bastardized in animated movies. From Hollywood we learnt how to zoom in and pan and focus on human faces, but it does not work for animated characters – we have millions of years of evolution to detect the nuance in the human face.

Chekhov's Gun is the primary example of storytelling principles. To put it plainly, if there's a gun in the first scene, it needs to be used in the third scene – that is to say, every element needs to be relevant to the future story. (Otherwise that element should be removed to improve the story because it is distracting the audience from what is relevant and important.)

The result of this maxim is that storytelling is linear and progress. Therefore, a well done story is known beforehand and not adaptive.

Video games are borrowing movie lessons without any thought to execution. A linear story is so poorly done in a video game because the video game distracts from the story. The human input is variable but the story is not. This often leads to jarring disconnects for the user. Even in branching outcomes of stories like *Detroit: Become Human*, it falls flat.

The game is an obstruction to the story. If the goal is to tell a story, what is the rationale for the game? There are a few games which *creatively* incorporate the game into the storyline (*Spec Ops: The Line*, etc) but they are the minority.

Each medium has pros and cons, and storytelling is not the pro for video games. I'll leave it as an exercise for the reader to think of the unique asset for video games because this section is already too long.

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### COVID

In the twenty-first century decentralization is the most common method of disruption that technology has brought us.

COVID opinions show this well, where everyone has decentralized their news and opinions. This is nothing new and is another case of levels of abstraction, resolution, and pros and cons.

Unfortunately, I have deviated from the mainstream as well. I rejected certain CDC guidelines several times over the course of the past few years due to my opposing opinion.

The first deviation was taking the vaccine early. In the beginning the vaccine was restricted to first priority administration. This makes sense from a bottleneck perspective in theory however in reality it was not logistical (countless empty slots and expiring dosages) and completely political (instead of health/science first principles). I acted accordingly.

The second deviation was delaying the second vaccine shot. The data at the time showed more positive results waiting longer for the booster. Further, I delayed from a bottleneck perspective as now that the gates were open, slots were actually at full capacity (unlike before).

I don't believe either two deviations are anti-science, anti-vaccine, or anti-covid.

WFH will be terrible for individuals (society) in the long run and is one of the biggest changes that COVID has brought into normalization.

### Tedium

It is quite attractive when visiting a stranger's place and they have everything in order and aesthetic. Most commonly it's #minimialism and color blocking #fashion but those are separate rants.

Life is full of tedium inherently because of the laws of thermodynamics. Entropy always increases and therefore the mainstay of life is keeping everything together in some meaningful fashion – fighting against the abyss of darkness from swallowing us.

And that's all and good and healthy, however there is deficiency and excess. Something irks me with the dry, boring, emptiness of a clean, spotless, minimal, modern house.

It is admittedly quite attractive when one has an order over their domain, however part of my romanticism leans into rejecting keeping everything together and letting it fall apart.

Certainly, being clean and spotless and germless is healthy but at what point is it a neurosis and not to be idealized and desirable. The clinical answer is when it is debilitating and interfering with other functions of life. But I'm here to spew inarticulate disagreements so my inclination is a messy house is a red flag, but so is a particularly clean one.

### School

It's such a novel idea that people learn in different ways therefore it's suboptimal when we fit circles into square holes.

Congratulations, you've identified that how we treat the base case is not optimal for treating the edge case. Further, it's a deficiency and outrageous how X people can't succeed in Y system. But let's step back and put thought into why the system is the way it is. Is your methodology better or worse? Is the tradeoff worth it? Have you done the calculus?

Certainly, establishment and tradition is meant to fall, but be precise when and where and the desirable outcomes.

Everything is a spectrum and most things are a gaussian distribution.

### College

There are levels of education. As with all strata systems, each level should be meaningful such that they are each distinct. More optimally, each level sieves out a significant percentage of the attendance.

In a programming context there are data models but perhaps more relatable is talking about a folder structure.

When designing a folder for holding items, certainly dividing groups based on names is a good start, but the optimal is such that each branch on the tree is evenly distributed.

If there is one level which has two folders; folder A has one item and folder B has two hundred items. This is a bad classification system.

There should always be an elite level of education which is largely unattainable or undesirable for the masses. This is a good thing – not that it's good to be exclusionary, but the trade-offs for such a niche education aren't relevant/useful for an arbitrary person.

College was this level for the majority of time. However in the past decades the snowball has occurred with object transference. Those who went to college were elite, intellectual, wealthy, men. They were desirable in the workforce and had great outcomes, therefore college was desirable for more.

After decades now college is standard, traditional, expected. It continues to produce better outcomes for those who attend, but we attend as a default for the result – not for the input.

The same thing has happened with Coin Grading, Video Game Grading, Food Critic Awards, etc. The attribution is abstracted from the foundational values and eventually they divorce and no longer indicate what they originally indicated.

Masters and post-graduate education systems are somewhat elite and less common. College has degraded into a generalist level education system – it's especially apparent with rhetoric of 'free college' or 'college should teach us real life skills like taxes'. Which are absurd and laughable.

What do we want college to be for? What is the outcome? By all means education is the great equalizer and we would do well as a society to enable individuals to achieve their maximum potential, but let us not bastardize words ignorantly. Elementary School, High School, Private School, College, etc. By all means let us change education, but move forward with intentionality and incision.

### QWERTY

Why don't we put all the vowels at the front of the alphabet and the consonants after? Who invented alphabetical order? Why don't we teach QWERTY in school and make a song for it? That would be more helpful to children growing up. You learn the alphabet AND you learn the keyboard.

Don't get me started on Dvorak.

### Having an opinion

You don't need an opinion on everything. That said, having an opinion is fun *and* good.

Especially when one is wrong. There is no shame, no failure in being wrong – certainly this is the case for anyone in college or when it is not your responsibility to be correct.

What truly matters is what happens when we are confronted with our wrongness. When one is wrong it does not mean one is an idiot or evil or that the corrector is superior.

The first virtue is communication to inform others when they are incorrect.

The primary virtue which follows is kindness and conflict resolution.

### Journey or Destination

Is the output important or is the input?

Are the results important or the process?

### Sex Work

The base level is sex work should be prohibited and is criminalized.

The next level is sex work should be legalized and empowering choices.

The next level is sex work should be decriminalized but not normalized or encouraged.

-5 to overcorrect at +5, one day God willing we'll nuance to 0

### Gatekeeping

On one side of the spectrum there is gatekeeping, mansplaining, and infantilization.

On another side there is expertise, hierarchy, and specialization.

### Public spaces

I'm a huge fan of public spaces and architecture. One of the greatest problems in society is our failing of socialization and community.

This is largely created by technology, but not explicitly – the natural expanse of capitalism, market theory, and globalization/decentralization naturally leads to an isolated individual.  
  
Less literally, I reject individuals at a moral level - Egyptian morality is more appealing to me, where communities are responsible for their members more so than individual failure. Of course both are true, and each has its legal implications but the more I understand psychology and community and sociology the more I have empathy for debilitated individuals and more criticism of our failing communals.

May the local library and sports park flourish. May we reintegrate all ages together instead of segmented age strata based around our own narcissistic personalities that flitter each day. May we institute mandatory community service and volunteering with shared responsibility.

### Drama

Drama events like the above are basically live AITA posts.

These are interesting because they allow me to test my opinions against the masses. This is particularly insightful when I'm in disagreement with the common consensus.

The other interesting aspect is when there is limited information. This tests intellectual incisiveness to choose the right side of the argument as the story unfolds. Sometimes you are right, and sometimes you are wrong.

When you are wrong, does a genuine, honest, good-faith postmortem find that you could have figured it out earlier? How could you have been less ego-driven and more correct and insightful?

Or perhaps you were ultimately wrong, but it was correct to be wrong in that moment – at each step you are satisfied with your conclusions; it's just that the vital pieces of information weren't public until the very end.

News is an abstracted chain of trust. Are your sources reliable? It often is impossible to be reliable with certainty, therefore the best proxy is discernment and thoughtfulness. Are your sources good faith and objective?

**Will Smith Grammy**

Physical violence isn't ideal but there are worse things. I don't condone Will Smith's aggression in this case however I think the westernization's abhorrence/demonization of anything physical in favor of emotional and verbal violence is absurd, dystopian, and laughable.

**Twitch Gambling**

Everything, including morality and behaviors are on a spectrum. There are a distribution of opinions regarding morality – at which threshold does one criminalize?

Net-negative behaviors are nothing new, however what is new and infuriating is the latest wave of moral grandstanding and confidence bred from ignorance.

Those with a stricter conscience (Pokimane) are commendable but cannot see the log in their eye that another's moral view is just as valid as their own. Certainly, one can advocate for their moral view but to be supremely confident is pure madness, indicative of an underlying lack of depth in understanding the nuance of the situation.

There is nothing new under the sun.

**Magnus Hans Chess**

I should make a serious chess post detailing my Chess journey as I've followed the origin of Chess streaming from the beginning. That said, I'm obviously in favor of Magnus. Character and intuition is king and will never fade in importance.

### Fat

It's bad to be fat.

That said weight is complicated and nutrition is impossible to understand and all marketing.

At the highest level there is weight.

The prerequisite is calorie intake.

The prerequisite is hunger (or boredom, or stress, etc)

Something, something, hierarchy of food pyramid needs and education.

### Cars

Cars bad

Nietzsche avait vu juste, avec son flair de vieille pétasse, le christianisme était au fond une religion féminine.

That old queer Nietzsche had it right: Christianity was, at the end of the day, a feminine religion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSGusSu4GXU>

Yukiko Okada - Futari Dake no Ceremony