

3P MENTALITY

ESSAY 1: “Passion”

The Case for Childlike Curiosity

P is for Passion

Passion is the first P in the 3P Mentality, whose essay order reflects its significance. Hence, Passion plays the most fundamental role in an individual’s work. It is the main character while the second and third Ps are the supporting cast. If all else fails, look to Passion as the P to get started again.

Learn like a Child

The first step to this P is rekindling your relationship with learning. In other words, become a child again and be curious about the world around you. Childlike curiosity is synonymous with the feeling of wonder, observing the world through a wide-eyed lens, open to infinite possibilities. This outlook requires no knowledge whatsoever, but rather, a lack thereof. The willingness to assume a blank slate, however, involves letting go of the need for certainty, a natural inclination to find meaning in the unknown. It starts at square one, asking simple questions like “Why is water clear?” or “Why does the moon change shape?” Although seemingly trivial, this unashamed, simple inquiry is what rekindles Passion, the intrinsic drive to continue doing what one loves regardless of external validation.

The Fall of the Nerd

The nerd is Passion personified—someone who loves to learn about the world, not out of necessity but genuine interest. However, people are often hesitant to “nerd out” because they are scared of judgment. Although this fear is natural, it has created cringe culture, a mindset characterized by a tendency to mock or ridicule those who reject societal conformity in favor of unconventional self-expression. To avoid the fear of judgment, people depend on extrinsic rewards to feel validated externally, temporarily fulfilling a greater human need for acceptance.

This mindset leads to performative behavior, when one acts inauthentically to be perceived in a particular way. It is similar to walking on a tightrope, each step choreographed to “wow.” You become a spectacle with a stage persona, hiding your authentic self behind a mask. The show must go on, but by breaking character, the production, audience, and yourself would fall apart. The truth, however? Nobody’s watching. It’s a one-man performance, but the stage lights are blinding you from seeing that.

The Dangers of Conformity

Every performer succumbs to conformity, fitting into a conventional framework, a rat race for external validation, where the product drowns the process, sucking the Passion out of the science and arts. Conformity is the suppression of being fearlessly oneself. It creates a

dissonance between seeking acceptance and finding it within oneself. When everybody is the same, nobody is making a difference. Nobody is taking the creative liberties to start new movements, ideas, and inventions, strengthening the case that we need to let go of external validation.

The Art of Creativity

Letting go involves escaping the system—freeing oneself from dependence on external validation to grow intrinsically. When one lets go, they naturally invite in the wonder of childlike curiosity, releasing the pressure to perform, exploring the world on one's own accord, and rekindling personal interests. This Passion as a result of letting go is the ultimate source of fulfillment, as doing so allows creativity to flow freely. Creativity is the ability to be original, thinking outside the box, solving the puzzle differently, inventing groundbreaking art, technology, and new ideas.

Practically everything you use is the work of creative thinkers who dared to confront problems rather than accept them as they were. Da Vinci's inventive designs and anatomical studies, Aristotle's logical systems and art of rhetoric, and Newton's laws in calculus and physics exemplify the impact of creativity. Likewise, Walt Disney, whose hundreds of beloved characters, nostalgic animations, and immersive theme parks, is arguably the father of imagineering, bringing original ideas to life. As a result, Passion fuels creativity, not only leaving a lasting impact but enabling self-expression. As P.T. Barnum once said: "No one ever made a difference by being like everyone else."