

Reply ID 6de7

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Hi Sam — Thanks a ton for writing!! I can't tell which post you transcribed nor when you left your comment (I don't see a date unless you write it in), but I'm replying two days after I received it on 6-21-19. I'd guess you wrote it, when, around late April? Almost 2 months, if so. Sorry. Turnaround can be pretty slow, but BTB does do a lot of work to get your comments to me. If you'd like to write me directly, it'd be faster to send a letter to:

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Getting mail is one of the few good things in my life anymore, so please do feel free to write! Of course, I'll always reply either way, whether by snail mail or here on BTB (which is snail mail for me, regardless).

That said, your comment-letter really touched me. Thanks! They say "flattery will get you nowhere," but I think that's a lie. You said I seem wise, intelligent, inspiring, ~~articulate~~, and like I might make a good poet? [Blushes!] If I wasn't a narcissist already, you might make me one, lol! Seriously though... are you a poet? Into poetry? I tried once, and I scribbled lots of doggerel, like most poet-wannabes, but I remember writing 4 or 5 pieces I was mostly satisfied with. I wish I could get hold of them, but pretty surely the cops stole my only copies and now they're rotting away in a storage facility somewhere... a lot like myself, I guess. Poetic, eh?

Are you truly interested in talking philosophy and psychology? I'd be beyond jazzed to have that conversation, if you're serious. It's been about a decade since I've had any academic classes in either subject, but I try to stay current and conversant in my main focus areas of ethics and cognitive psych. If I were in school now, I'd definitely be into neuroscience and A.I. ... those fields have really exploded since the time I was kidnapped. There is so much cool info online about all that stuff; I probably have a year's worth of reading just from notes I've taken about articles that sound super interesting. I can't ask many people I know for that kind of stuff, because it can be tricky to find and I have other priorities and limited resources. If you're really willing to help keep me part of the world of ideas, I'd love to take you up on that.

You never told me... what's your major (or major interest)? And what clubs were you part of? I started a debate club at CSUB-AV, hoping it might evolve into a competitive forensics team, but it never got much traction.

Thanks for your suggestions on dealing w/ anger and anxiety. I sure have a lot of both ~~these~~ days, sadly. Your idea #3, physical outlets, is what I've tended toward so far, but I've already tried out your

Other two games, just for fun :). I like stuff like that, puzzles and challenges. Thanks.

It's terrible to hear about your problems from school. Depression sucks, and I'm glad I didn't experience too much of it before this nightmare. It's hard to imagine being driven to such depths by intense school devotion, since for me, school was usually sort of incidental, you know? I began failing classes by 6th grade, and I dropped out of high school in 12th. In college, though... well, I guess I've had phases. My transcripts are nutty — all A's; all F's. All A's; all F's. The cycles correspond with other things in my life, but not the way most people might expect. The lowest grades probably tend to occur at the happiest times of my life. They show that I had something else to focus on that made me happy. There's a quote I love, but which I'll butcher and can't recall who said it (yet I "love" it? lol!): "I've always been driven to learn, and the only thing that ever really interfered with it was schooling." Anyway, it sounds like you really needed a break ~~for~~ a sort of reboot. I hope you find something apart from school that will make you happy, too. Less stressful! :)

Well, Sam, thank you again for the feedback. It makes all the difference in the world to know that people still perceive me at all. I often feel like everything I do to communicate and stay connected is just screaming into a void, but people like you let me know that's not how it is, that I am still connected... at least a little bit.

On that note — Toodles. :)

--Dymitri