

## WHY WILL PLEASURE DESTROY HUMANITY?

**This is the story of the English science fiction writer, philosopher, and novelist "Brave New world", the thoughts of Aldous Leonard Huxley, author of the famous work "The Eternal Philosophy" , written almost a century ago...are truly worthy of attention. I also devoted space to it in the book "On the Path of Light".\***



**Aldous Leonard Huxley wrote:**

**The dangers that truly threaten our civilization are hardly external, but rather come from within the consciousness of modern man."**

In my opinion, of all the various poisons that our civilization is gradually synthesizing in its womb, there is hardly anything stronger than the strange and terrible phenomenon that is commonly referred to as "pleasure" (I put this word in quotation marks because I want to show that I am not talking about real pleasure, but about the types of organized leisure that are common in our society). Like any other person of sound mind and normal psyche, I hate work. However, I would rather sit at a bureaucrat's desk for eight hours a day than be condemned to a life of "pleasure."



### Entertainers

There was a time when entertainment required a certain amount of mental effort from people. For example, in the 17th century, members of royal families and their entourage were very happy to listen to the speeches and discussions of erudite preachers (say, Dr. Donne) on theological and metaphysical topics. Part of the entertainment program offered for Count Palatine Frederick on the occasion of his marriage to the daughter of James I, a scholarly discussion, on what philosophical subject, I forget, between Lord Williams, the Keeper of the Privy Seal, and a group of Cambridge logicians. Imagine what the current sovereign would say if university scholars invited him to have such fun!

Persons of royal blood were not the only ones who enjoyed intellectual pleasures. During the Elizabethan era, any lady or gentleman of average culture could, if necessary, participate in a madrigal or motet. Those familiar with the incredible complexity and sophistication of 16th-century music will understand what this means.

Even the common people chose for themselves entertainments that required a certain amount of intelligence, originality, and personal initiative. They listened, for example, to Othello, King Lear, and Hamlet—with interest and understanding, of course. They sang and played musical instruments.

The peasants performed their usual rituals year after year: in spring and summer

There were dances, pantomimes in the winter, and harvest festivals in the fall. Their entertainments were intelligent and lively, and the people themselves tried to have fun.

We have changed all that. In place of the old pleasures, which required intelligence and personal initiative, we have set up gigantic organizations to supply us with ready-made entertainment products—products that require neither personal participation nor appreciable intellectual effort on the part of the pleasure-seekers. Millions of movie theaters are broadcasting the same nonsense. Third-rate writers and

Playwrights have always existed, but in the past their works quickly died, never leaving the borders of the city or country in which they were born. Today, incompetent The work of screenwriters from Los Angeles is distributed worldwide. From the many viewers no mental effort, no participation required - just sit and watch screen.

Do people in democratic countries need music? In the old days, they created it themselves. Now they just have to turn on the gramophone. And if you want literature, there is the Press for that. Of course, officially the Press exists to provide information. But in reality its task is to keep people busy without requiring the slightest effort from them and without burdening their minds with a single thought.

It must be admitted that it performs this task exceptionally well. You can read two newspapers every weekday and another on Sundays for many years in a row, without using any of your brain or concentration – just skimming through the printed columns is enough.

Sports that require physical exertion are still popular in certain segments of society. personal involvement. Many middle and upper class people play golf and tennis, while the wealthier ones shoot birds, hunt foxes and ski In the Alps. But the vast masses of the population "engage" in sports indirectly - they prefer to watch football matches, avoiding the tension and dangers of the game itself. True, they still dance in all classes, but they dance, everywhere making the same movements to the same melodies. Now all traces of both local and individual peculiarity have been carefully erased from the dance.

These passive pleasures, these ready-made entertainments, the same for all the inhabitants of the Western world, undoubtedly pose a great danger to our civilization. During working hours, the vast majority of people are already busy with purely mechanical tasks, and now in their free time they resort to entertainments that are just as standardized and require just as little intelligence and initiative. If we add to such work a similar we will get a completely empty day of free time, the end of which gives a great relief.

With such poisoning, our civilization could easily slide into premature madness. Because soul and brain atrophied by inactivity, unable to entertain – satiated with standard entertainments that can only be shaken by demonstrations of blatant violence and cruelty – such a future democratic society risks suffering from deadly chronic boredom. It is likely that it will follow the path of the ancient Romans – the same the Romans, who eventually, just like us now, lost the ability to have fun;

the Romans, who, like us, began to live on organized entertainment without themselves participating in its organization.

**Unbearable boredom forced them to demand more and more gladiators, more and more elephants that could walk on a tightrope, more and more exotic animals, which could be slaughtered in public. Our society demands no less, but because there are still a few idealists left, they don't get everything they want. The most brutal forms of entertainment are now enjoyed only in secret. To satisfy your craving for murder and bloodshed, you must become a member of the Ku Klux Klan. But don't despair: we will probably still see blood flowing in the hippodrome arena. Curbing people's desire to overcome boredom at any cost can be a difficult task, even for idealists.**

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**\*Speaking specifically about this author (there were more of them in the 60s), who, like others, was looking for the easiest way to the inner world, using something other than his own peace and faith, and certain psychedelic substances that led them to darkness, doom. His book " *The Doors of Perception* " has unfortunately misled many a seeker. Light does not need any aids. Remember THIS.**