

Be Here Now, Just Be Safe

“The gods envy us. They envy us because we’re mortal, because any moment may be our last. Everything is more beautiful because we’re doomed. You will never be lovelier than you are now. We will never be here again.” – Achilles from the movie *Troy*

Some say they live for the day, or even the moment. And some say that life is short, so don’t squander opportunities to live like it is your last day. YOLO – a slang term created by some rapper that has permeated the heart of the teenage rebellion. Young adults around the country are screaming this phrase as they participate in things they never have done before, and take chances, because “you never know if today is your last...”. But there is a problem.

Sure, today may be your last. And yes, you should take chances of some sort, and live outside the box at times, so you can experience new and exciting things. However, some young people use this mantra as a way to exhibit dangerously stupid behavior on a regular basis. “Who wants to car surf on my roof at sixty miles per hour?” YOLO! “Anyone want to drop out of college with me and travel the world for a few years?” YOLO! “I know I missed six straight days of work to sit on my couch and play video games...” YOLO! The thing about YOLO is... it has consequences.

If you don’t want to live a long happy life, live in the moment and car surf at sixty. If you don’t want to get a college degree or have the potential of getting a profitable career for yourself, drop out college and travel for a few years. If you don’t need money, stay home for six days and play video games. In my opinion though, there needs to be balance.

Living in the moment is a real thing. It’s the conscious act of appreciating life while you’re living it, instead of always thinking about the future or the past. Living in the moment takes work, hard work. You have to be aware of what’s around you, and make a real effort to slow down and enjoy what’s around you, even if you feel like you have other things going on.

Living in the moment involves trying new things like surfing, but just not car surfing. Instead of jumping on the roof of a car and trying to cheat death, maybe hire a professional to give you lessons on surfing in the ocean and do it the right way. You are still living in the moment, and you will have the chance to live in the moment more, later in life, when you are still around because you thought about the consequences of riding on top of a speeding car. You want to travel, do it. Maybe travel for a few months on your summer off, or take more road trips with your friends, but don’t drop out of school to travel the world and throw away your future. Do it right, and consider the consequences, and you will end up much better in the long run.

So, next time you are about to scream “YOLO!” and do something stupid, please stop and consider the consequences. Living in the moment is a good thing, but when it negatively affects your future, it might not be the best thing for you.

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“Be Here Now, Just Be Safe” Questions

1. What is the meaning of the line chosen by the author of this piece?
2. What is the message the author is trying to convey with this piece?