



# Aphorisms Against Work

*Len Bracken*



1. Laziness is a comedy in which we can all play a part, a veritable field of sunblown flowers where unruly colors dance with the wind.

2. Fling your work schedule into the river of time.



3. The legends of paradise teach us to curse work, reminding us that laziness is humanity's essential goal.

4. All power to zeroworker councils—impose laziness, with strictness.

5. The right to work is the right to misery and always implies the right not to work.

6. Now more than ever, we must fight measures designed to make those who refuse to work, work.

7. Laziness is a source of virtue.

8. Work is the graveyard of bad intentions.

9. The masses martyr themselves with work.

10. Work surrounds us and lays siege to our souls.

11. Going to work is like hurling yourself into an abyss.

12. The time has come to prepare the sacred cow of work for slaughter.

13. There are three types of labor—wage work, domestic labor and autonomous activity, the latter being most free from drudgery and slavery.

14. Slaves feel tired just thinking of all the work they've yet to do.

15. Many waters cannot quench our thirst for laziness, nor floods drown it.

16. Creativity constrains the return of work; be creative, as Vaneigem says, and put severe constraints on work.



17. Humans are congenitally allergic to work—they don't want to work whenever they have a chance not to work.

18. The sacrosanct notion of work is the cause of most of humanity's woes. Never trust the priests of work because they've poisoned their minds with it. The quantity of economically necessary work declines, yet politicians and economists tell us that the only way to end unemployment is with more useless work.

19. The advent of workerism, with St. Augustine linking monastic work to divine creation, gradually, and even then only partially, subverted our natural inclination to be lazy.

20. The ugly brown dye of work spills across this miserable civilization, saturating the fabric of everyday life, day after back-breaking day.

21. Authentic humans feel degraded by those who preach the religion of work.

22. Pay your debts with an effigy of your boss.

23. Wage labor perpetuates the archaic system whereby armies and courts consume the profits of overproduction.

24. In a ton of work, there's not an ounce of love.

25. Work or perish—what choice is that? I'd rather die than work.

26. A life of labor always diminishes one's love of life, so become a verb like Bucky Fuller and cease to be the lowly noun spoken of so fondly, once a year, on Labor Day.

27. If you haven't started working, don't do it—fuller or haynes or whatever you do.

28. So-called elite workers ally with bosses against fellow humans who are either incapable or, praise them, idle.

29. Work inhibits the noble passions of humanity.

30. Workers betray their natural instincts to be lazy and lose their vitality—stop being workers and never work again.

31. Laziness is the mother of passion, a veritable bed of lust.

32. Disgrace to the proletariat that gives into work.

33. For Oblomov, there was the world of work and boredom, and the world of rest and enjoyment. We need more works that display such love of idleness.

34. Work isn't a task, it's torture.

35. The plague of work, the bulimia of work, the homicide of work—give work, as Lafargue does, its proper attributes.

36. Work is a ball and chain.

37. Work brings dishonor to your house.

38. No pity for those tormented by a passion  
for work.

39. Labor only sustains life by stunting it.  
Tell me how much you work and I'll tell you  
what you are.

40. The only place to contemplate the wisdom  
of humanity is on the throne of laziness.

41. Now we have a system where most work  
and few are lazy. The rejection of work is the  
basis of subproletarian revolution, so take  
victories over work where you can get them.

42. Put your best efforts into laziness and  
prepare for the coming inaction.

43. Waiting for the Waterloo of work...

44. The biggest tragedy of the teen years?  
Sublime beings become workers.

45. *Work for full unemployment.*



46. The culture of productivism employs work for social discipline and control—in a word, domination. Look around the subway. You share the world with masses of domestic slaves on the way to, or recovering from, their latest paroxysm of work.

47. Work is long, the boss a beast.



48. Instead of the penitentiary of the salary, we want guaranteed social incomes, in addition and unrelated to, the number of hours we work.

49. Kick the work habit.

50. Death to Malthus, religion and the dogma of work.

51. Laziness is the religion of the XXIst-century.

52. Worship the oracle of laziness.

53. *Every prison is built with work.*

54. Inhibit, as best you can, the vice of work.

55. Workers and consumers are the miserable servants of machines and their endless demands.

56. The dogma of workerism depicts unemployment as a problem rather than the boon to humanity it should be.

57. The tragedy is that those who do work, work so much they are no longer human.

58. Those who don't work often face a miserable existence amidst the spectacle of plenty.

59. Work is not the continuation of divine creation, rather a contest of life and death whereby work triumphs over wisdom, and vice versa.

60. *If God doesn't work, why should I?*

61. Augustine, a saint in some eyes, tied monastic work to divine creation and denounced laziness. The confusion engendered by the mama's boy from Hippo between divine work and ordinary labor opened the door to the condemnation of leisure.

62. The Augustinian classification of licit and illicit jobs should, however, be applied by a revolutionary federation of zeroworker councils. Make much of what is now called work, taboo.

63. The priests of work find work in everything. This monetizing of all activity disguises work as leisure and creates a slave society where freedom should reign.

64. Paul calls the big bluff in his “Second Epistle to the Thessalonians” and invokes the need to work because Thessalonians were convinced that the second coming of Christ was at hand, hence work useless. No reason to refuse work, as if we need another one when we have so many. I’ve never liked Paul—not his style, nor his no-work-no-eat dictum.

65. Thomas Aquinas, reacting to the fact that the number of illicit jobs had been reduced as commerce and craft grew, created the category of common utility that revalued many jobs, including commerce. This revaluing must be revalued.

66. Sacrifice work for the sake of life, or at least snarl at your boss and give him the finger.

67. Production for the sake of production is as vapid as art for art’s sake.

68. The system economizes time and withholds it from people.

69. The ethics of effort and competition demolish solidarity and destroy friendships.

70. The seeds of universal solidarity are found in taking time away from work.

71. For the Greeks, to work is to be enslaved by necessity.



72. To paraphrase Marx: Labor dominates necessity by producing surplus and labor simultaneously submits to the instruments of this domination.

73. Bad workers can't be controlled by management, especially when they're ready to pretend to be loyal employees and otherwise lie to the enemy.

74. For Hegel, work is refrained desire, a force that only adequately negates the object of desire. Desire frees itself from work by consuming commodities in the fires of South Central Los Angeles.

75. Everything that requires effort and supports the market—shopping, cleaning, watching television—has become work, albeit invisible work.

76. I'd rather boogie woogie than work.

77. Work is chronic lunacy, cured only by solar economics.

78. *Work is a bitter sea of suffering.*

79. Idleness is a friend that rarely betrays.

80. Bosses are paper tigers.

81. Work is measured in terms of disgrace.

82. We're naturally inclined toward the sweetness of laziness.

83. Work dies on the comfy pillory of laziness, putting a momentary end to the system that sublimates sex with work.

84. No herb will cure work.

85. Work is a crocodile in the river of desire.

86. In the chasm between wages and salaries  
flows a river of tears.

87. Laziness is my food, love my wine.

88. Work is to life as a wall is to the wind.

89. Laziness and hedonism prevail over  
productivism and puritanism.

90. Workerism is a pile of shit—only mad  
cocks get on it and crow.

91. The world of workerist domination is doomed.

92. Work sits, as the saying goes, at the  
brave rider's back.

93. *Freedom begins where work ends.*

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