

**Gain self-respect and  
confidence**



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So, you know, *one way of conceptualizing yourself is **that you're one speck of dust among seven billion.*** And when you conceptualize yourself that way **you might think well what difference does it make what I say or do.**

And that's actually quite convenient for you because If it doesn't matter what you say her due then you don't have any responsibility and you can do whatever you want.

The price you pay for that is a bit of nihilism. But if you don't have to shoulder any responsibility, that's a small price to pay. **That's the underground motivation for nihilism.**





The other way of looking at it and *this is actually the accurate way of looking at it is that you're in a network*. You're a node in a network, and so, you can do a little bit of arithmetic very rapidly and *just figure out how powerful you are*.

*You know a thousand people*. You're going to know more than that over the course of your life. But let's say a thousand for the sake of argument, for now.

*They know a thousand people*, that means that *you're one person away from a million people and two persons away from a billion people*.

And you're the center of that network, and now the way networks work is that *information propagates in a networked manner*.





So, don't underestimate the power of your speech. Now, you know, **Western culture is phallogocentric**, let's say it. Okay, so we'll say yeah, that's just fine. That's exactly what it is. It's predicated on the idea of the logos, that the logos is the sacred element of Western culture. And *what does that mean?*

**It means that your capacity for speech is divine.**

*It's the thing that generates order from chaos*, and then sometimes turns pathological order into chaos when it has to.

*Don't underestimate the power of truth.* **There's nothing more powerful.**

Now *in order to speak what you might regard as the truth; you have to let go of the outcome.*



*You have to think alright, I'm going to say what I think stupid as I am biased as I am ignorant as I am. I'm going to state what I think as clearly as I can and I'm going to live with the consequences no matter what they are.*

*Now the reason you think that that's an element of faith. The idea is that **nothing brings a better world into being than the stated truth.***

*Now you might have to pay a price for that, but that's fine, **you're going to pay a price for every bloody thing you do, and everything you don't do.***

*You don't get to choose to not pay a price, you get to choose which poison you're going to take. **That's it.***





So, if you're going to stand up for something *stand up for truth*. It'll shape you because people will respond and object and tell you why you're a fool and a biased moron and why you're ignorant.

And then, if you listen to them, you'll be just that much less like that the next time you say something. And if you do that for five years, *you'll be so damn tough and articulate and able to communicate and withstand pressure, that you won't even recognize yourself*.

And **then you'll be a force to contend with.**

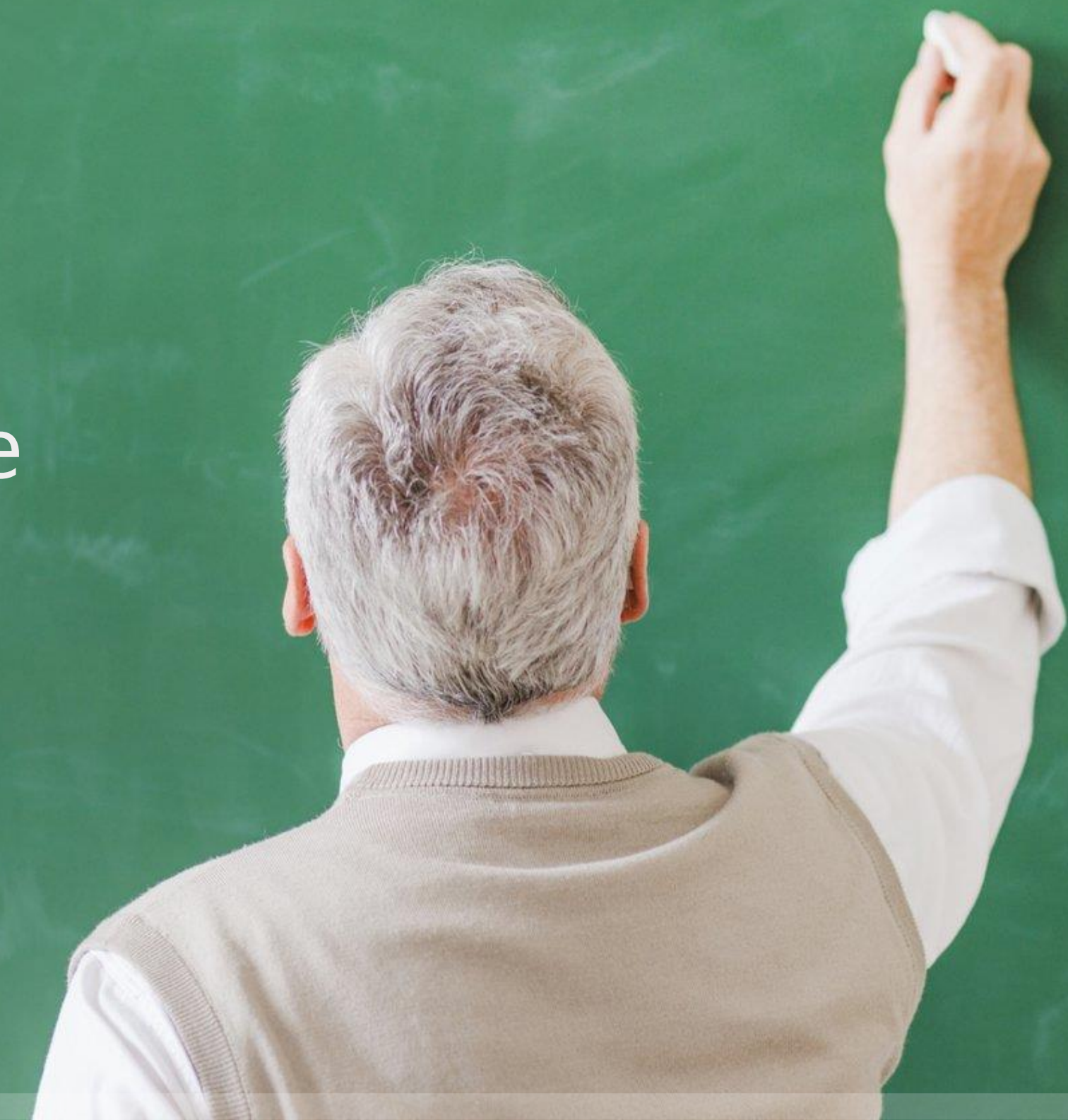




And you don't get to wait until, because I get letters like from faculty members in particular and they say, "well, you know, when I get tenure," then they think, "well, when I'm an associate professor," and then they think "well when I'm a full professor." it's like...

If you're a professor already, you're like the most protected person in the history of the planet, you know, and you need well, okay. But one of the things that that indicates is that it's almost impossible to provide people with enough protection so that they feel safe to speak.

Okay, so we'll address that directly, it is not safe to speak. And *it never will be*.





But the thing you got to keep in mind is that **it's even less safe not to speak.**

Right? *It's a balance of risks*, it's like you want to pay the price for being who you are and stating your mode of being in the world, or do you want to pay the price for being a bloody serf, a one that's enslaved him or herself.

Well, that's a major price man that thing unfolds over decades and you'll just be a miserable worm at the end of about 20 years of that, right? *No self-respect, no power, no ability to voice your opinions, nothing left but resentment*, because everyone's against you *because of course, you've never stood up for yourself.*





It's like, *say what you think carefully, pay attention to your words*. It's a price you want to pay if you are willing to believe that truth is the cornerstone of society. And in *the most real sense if you're willing to take that leap*, then *tell the truth and see what happens* and **nothing better could possibly happen to you**.

*There'll be ups and downs and there'll be pushback and there'll be controversy* and all of that, but **it doesn't matter, the truth is what redeems the world from hell**.

And that's the truth, and we saw plenty of Hell over the last hundred years, you know? And *we haven't learned a bloody thing from it*.

It's like wake up!



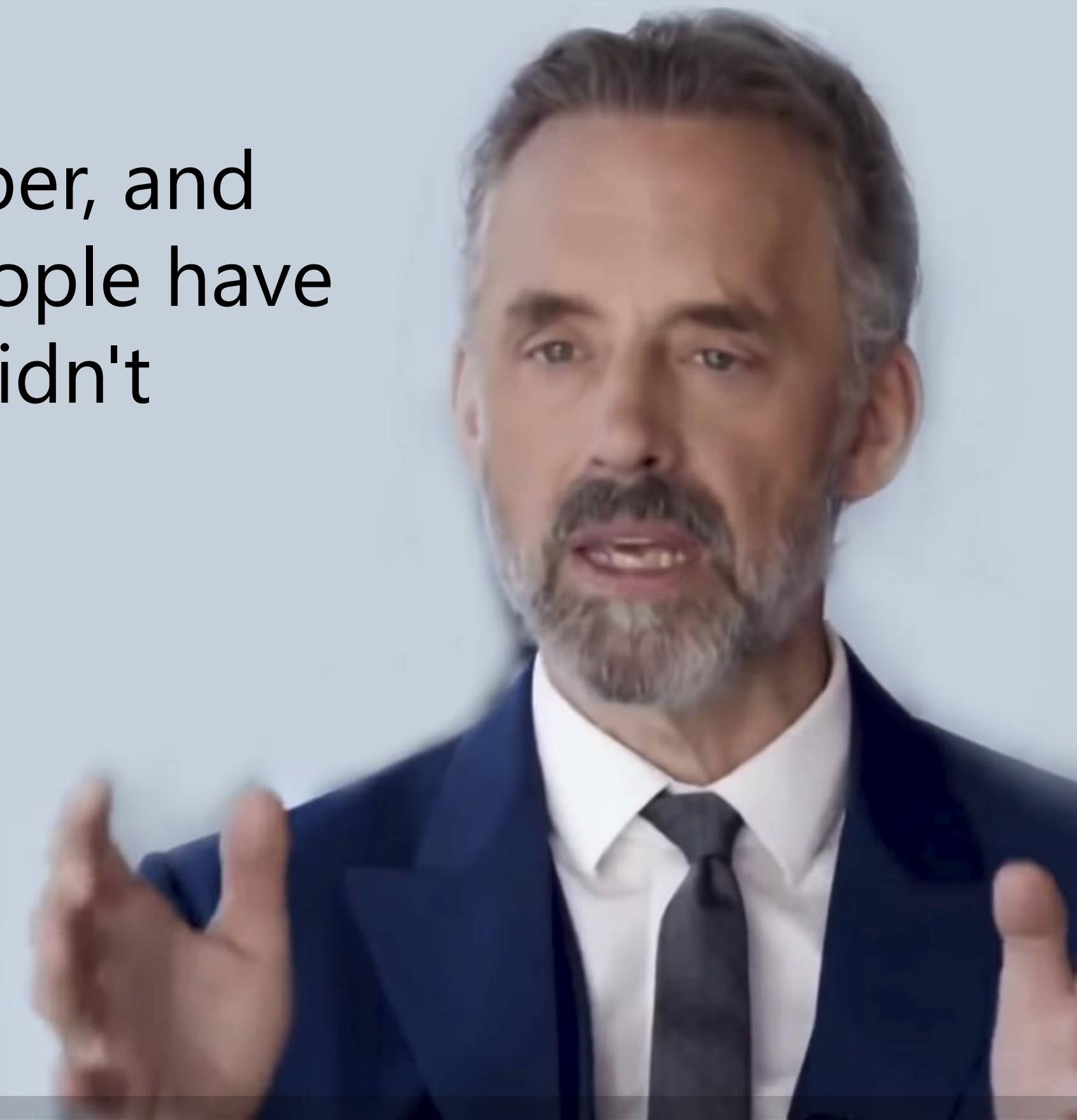


Tell the truth, tell the truth or at least don't lie *if that's a start*.

And you got to understand **that's a risk**. But I have one more brief thing to say about that.

So, you know I said what I had to say back in September, and I'm sure that I could have done it better and many people have told me how I could have done it better, although it didn't mean they would actually do it.

And, you know, my job was at risk, serious risk, for about two months and *it destabilized my family* they've been very brave about this, so like thumbs up to them, man *they just stood by me*.





But, here's the optimistic news, the university has left me alone completely. I shook hands with the dean two weeks ago.

We're on friendly terms They don't want this to go any farther than it has already. The students were tremendously welcoming when I came back to teach in January.

*I haven't had a single negative incident at the university, and I've received thousands of letters from people all over the world, all of which have been in support.*

I've received two negative letters. That's it. Two.

*So, people have an inchoate longing to have the sort of thing that we're talking about articulated and so **don't be thinking you're alone.***



It's just that people can't talk they're afraid to talk or they don't know what to say, and those are real problems, so if you're reasonably articulate like start talking and sharpen yourself up.

I mean the enemy is is a cloud, they're a cloud of gnats, they're only courageous in groups there only courageous in mobs if you stand your ground and don't apologize and articulate things properly, *they'll disperse around you like they're not even there.*

So, most of its illusion.





Be afraid, but be afraid of the right thing, and the right thing you should be afraid of *is not saying what you say*, 'cause that's the same as not being.

Here you are suffering and away *you might as well be at the same time*, at least then there's something to you.



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