

# How the universities are killing your future potential



Jordan  
**Peterson**  
*Professor of Psychology*

---

There's a sacrificial element in maturation, right? *You have to sacrifice the pluripotentiality of childhood for the actuality of a frame.*

And the question is well, "**why would you do that?**" Well, *one reason is, it happens to you whether you do it or not. You can either choose your damn limitation or you can let it take you unaware when you're thirty or even worse when you're forty, and then that is not a happy day.*





You see, I see people like this, and I think it's more and more common in our culture because people can put off maturity without suffering an immediate penalty. But *all that happens is the penalty accrues and then when it finally hits it just wallops you* because when you're twenty-five you can be an idiot, it's no problem.

Even when you're out in a job search it's like well you don't have any experience and you're kind of clueless yeah yeah you're young, you know, it's no problem we can *that's what young people are like* but they're full of potential okay well now you're the same person at thirty.





It's like people aren't so thrilled about you at that point, it's like, "what the hell have you been doing for the last ten years", "well I'm just as clueless as I was when I was twenty-two", yeah but you're not twenty-two.

You're an old infant, right? And *that's an ugly thing an old infant.*

So, part of the reason **you choose your damn sacrifice because the sacrifice is inevitable.**





But at least, do you get to choose it and then there's something that's even more complex than that in some sense is that...

The problem with being a child is that all you are is potential and it's really low resolution *you could be anything but you're not anything*.

So then, *you go and you adopt an apprenticeship, roughly speaking.*

And then you become at least you become something.

And when you're something that makes the world open up to you again.





You know like *if you're a really good plumber, then you end up being far more than a plumber right, you end up being a good employer.*

Not that plumbers, I am not plumbers down. It's like more power to plumbers. They've saved more lives than doctors.

So, hygiene, right? So, you know, if you're a really good plumber well then you have some employees you run a business, you train some other people you enlarge their lives, you are kind of a pillar of the community, you have your family.

Once you pass through that narrow training period *which narrows you and constricts you and develops you at the same time, then you can come out the other end with a bunch of new possibility at hand.*





And Jung talked about that, he *thought that the proper part of the proper path of development in the last half of life was **to rediscover the child that you left behind as you were apprenticing.***

And so then, *you get to be something and regain that potential at **the same time***, very very smart, well he was very very smart. So that's a very wise, very wise thing to know.

So yep, sacrifice, we'll talk more about that too. *You get you to get to pick your damn sacrifice.* That's all, you don't get to not make one.

So, you're sacrificial whether you want to be or not, *that's a good thing to know as well*. So, even though it's rather, you know *it's a rough thing to figure out*.





You can go to university to not be something, instead of going to university to be something. And that's, its *Pleasure Island*, and *the price you pay for it*, especially in the US, *is debt*.

And you're enticed into it because the administrators can pick your pocket.

So, *they rob your future self while allowing you to pretend that you have an identity*, right? Very nasty and you can't declare bankruptcy with your student loans in the US. *It's indentured servitude*.

And it's precisely *Pleasure Island*, it's exactly that. And so *tuition fees have shot way out of control*.



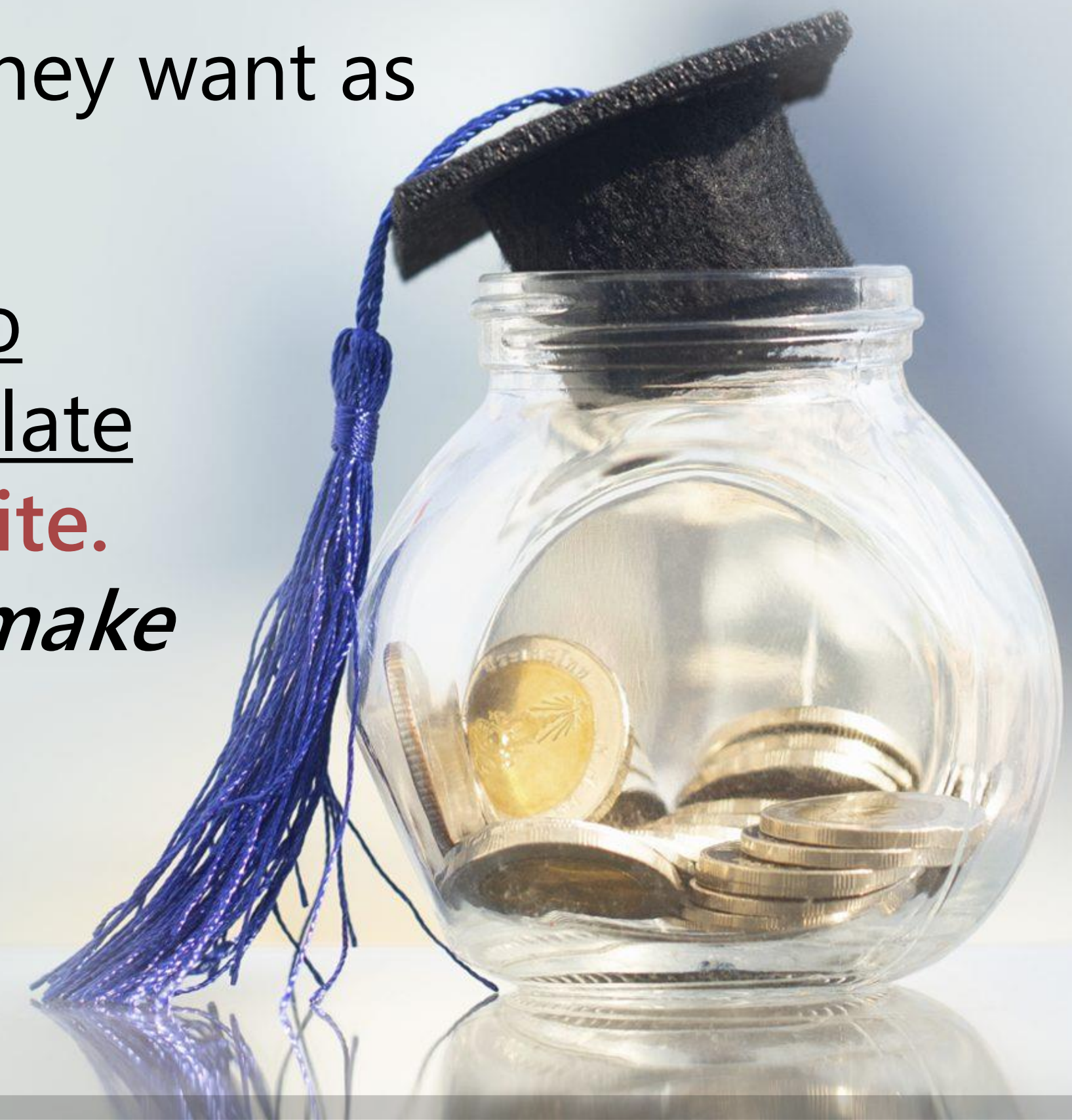


And part of the reason that universities don't make more demands on their students and let them get away with all the things they let them get away with, is because they are basically, why the hell would you chase them out.

They're \$100,000, or more, so they can do whatever they want as long as you get to sell them to the salt mines.

Right? You know what should happen when you go to university is you should learn how to think and formulate arguments. **You should learn to think, speak, and write.** *That's what the humanities are for, they're there to make you dangerous, right?*

Because *if you can think, and speak, and write,* **you're deadly.**





In a complex job, you're exactly what's necessary, but *if you don't have that*, it's like *what the hell good is the degree*.

So I mean, *a degree in English literature doesn't prepare you for a job*.

It could make you think, write, and speak, *which prepares you for any complex job*, and that's what's supposed to happen. But increasingly I think, that doesn't happen.

And the employers are waking up to this very rapidly.

So and they're, I mean they've already known, that most, for most complex positions they have to train their people.





Now they're thinking, well, why do I have to bother with the degree if I'm going to train them if it isn't bringing anything of value. You see this in even in fields like law.

*We also seem to be tightly selected for the capacity to cooperate and compete so **that multiplies our cognitive ability**, that's a huge part of it.*

And then, we're also we also seem to have constructed ourselves, so to speak, through sexual choice into these general problem, general-purpose problem-solving creatures.

And the other thing that's happened is that the rate of technological transformation is so fast now and the rate of turnover of things is that it's it is genuinely harder for people who are say 18 to 20.





When I was a kid, roughly speaking, the kind of rough patch for for for life was probably 14 to 17, something like that, now it's, I think, it's 18 to 25, something like that.

And I think the reason for that is that all the jobs that the bloody hippies complained about being doomed to in the 1960s have now disappeared.

Their problem was, "Oh my god, I going to have to work for a corporation and get a salary for the rest of my life, you know, and then I'll just end up in it with a pension and that'll be my whole life.

It's like well it seems like a lot better deal than an endless round of part-time Starbucks jobs.





So, you know, some of it is that. *There's a space now in our culture that is lacking for people to make that transformation from adolescence into adulthood.*

And so it's just, it's. The cost of that is forestalled  
*it's not a good thing.*





Make a lasting impact in the lives of others with inspirational quotes from our videos. This is a great way to give back to what you freely benefit from. Purchase our merchandise today!



Shop for t-shirts, hoodies, mugs and gifts. Our designs are printed with care on top quality material.

Our t-shirts are 100% premium soft cotton. There are two main styles of t-shirts available: **Straight cut**, often known as "men's" or "unisex", and **fitted cut**, also known as "women's".

Visit our online store for more information:

**<https://www.keytakeaways.net/store>**

Copy and paste this URL link to your browser's address bar.