



Ignorance is not
Bliss, Truth is

By Andrew Devine



Societal Context

"More and more at the present time... the world of work is becoming our entire world: it threatens to engulf us completely, and the demands of the world of work become greater and greater, till at last they make a 'total' claim upon the whole of human nature"

-Josef Pieper

Is knowledge good for its own sake?

Types of Goods

Useful Good: Something that is only good in that it serves as a means to an end

Intrinsic Good: Something good for its own sake

Human Nature

“All men by nature desire to know. An indication of this is the delight we take in our senses; for even apart from their usefulness they are loved for themselves; and above all others the sense of sight. For not only with a view to action, but even when we are not going to do anything, we prefer seeing (one might say) to everything else.”

-Aristotle

Truth is our end.

We are to both know and love the truth.

We come to the truth through both our minds' and our
bodies'.

We can only come to the truth through our humanity
and not in spite of it.

Why does ignorance seem bliss?

Conclusion

"We do not read and write poetry because it is cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. Medicine, Law, Business, Engineering, these are noble pursuits. Necessary to sustain life. But Poetry, Beauty, Romance, Love: These are what we stay alive for."

-Robin Williams (Dead Poets Society)

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Dead Poets Society

Questions?