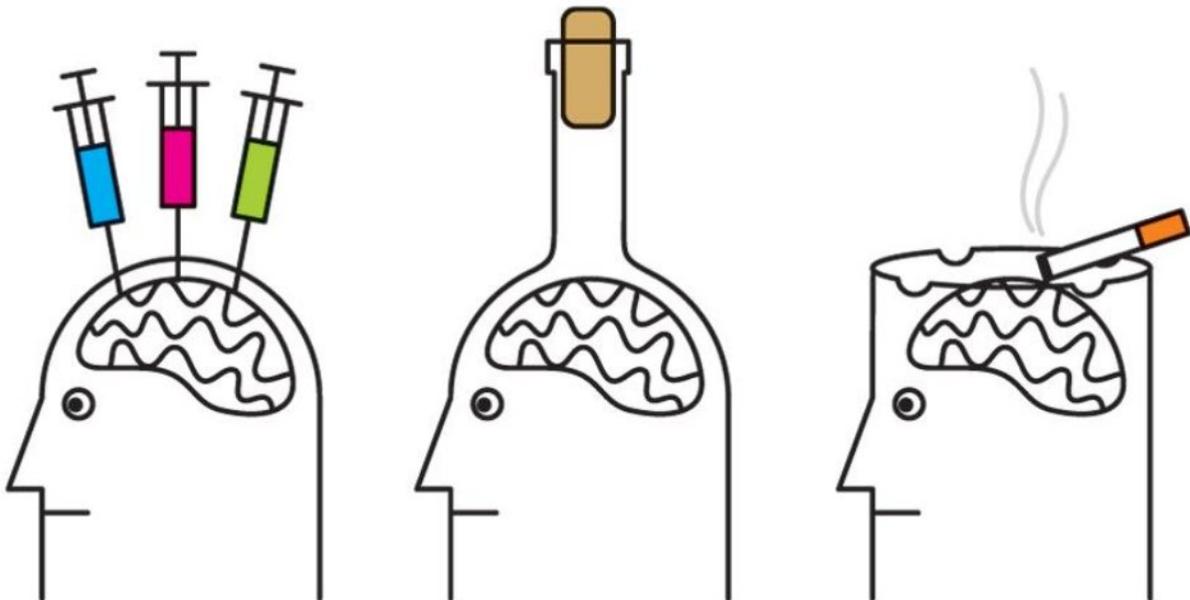


Why say "no"?

Humans have been blessed with the curse of free thinking. They've developed a great number of skills solely for the sake of survival. And I can't help but wonder, what kind of person would create weapons to destroy others, what kind of person hates other people so much?

I'm not only talking about guns, bombs, grenades. I'm talking about things available to every person, no matter how young, or how old. Things that have acted like they're above the law for centuries. I'm talking about the modern evils of humanity, ones that have been here among us for the longest of times: alcohol, cigarettes and drugs.



Humans have been blessed with the curse of free thinking. If one wishes to poison their body and mind, they'll do it no matter how much you beg them not to. In some instances, one might wonder if free will proves to be a good thing.

Personally, I've never tried any of those things, which has surprised everybody I've ever told this to, especially after learning my age. Apparently, at the age of eighteen, I am expected to have tried at least one cigarette and drank at least one glass of alcohol.

Why is it such a bad thing that I haven't, and why am I seen as someone more uptight for it? Why am I seen as a weird person because I choose to indulge in other things over the top three vices of mankind?



Logically speaking, anyone who has mastered self-control could probably experiment with these things during their lifetime. However, logic often fails in modern society, as most humans aren't born with minds that work purely on logic.

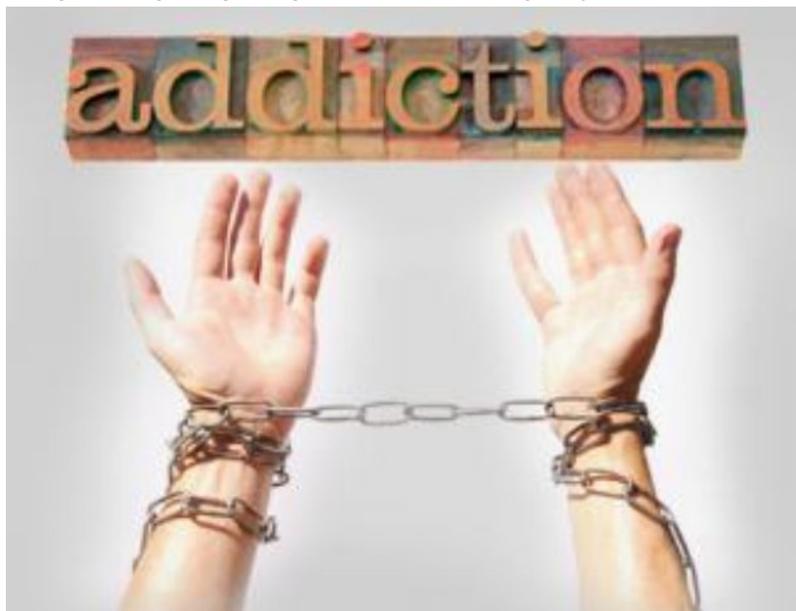
Addicts know better than anyone else what their guilty pleasures are doing to their insides, yet they choose to continue to indulge in them. There could be a myriad of reasons why, but mainly, it's to escape reality by creating one's own.

Where do you stop? How far will you build your own world until something happens that tears it down? How will you accept the freezing cold shower brought to you by the reality that's real and that surrounds you? Can you, without crumbling down?

Smokers know and feel better than anybody else what the cancer stick they're rolling between their fingers is doing to them. The tiredness after climbing one flight of stairs is one thing, and the slippery slope begins. Smoking, ultimately, is the most socially acceptable form of self harm, because it does nothing useful for your body, killing you with each cloud of smoke. It's been proven that smoking does nothing to alleviate one's nerves of stress as well, as smokers merely find the act of holding and lighting a cigarette comforting. If you ask me, find something else to do with your hands instead of poisoning yourself and everyone around you.

Why say no, you wonder?

Addiction is kind of like Alice's rabbit hole. The further you go, the harder it is for you to climb back. Only the ones with perseverance, the ones



with unbroken spirit can reach up and feel the sunlight again.

Humans have been blessed with the curse of free thinking. Sometimes I wonder if they think at all.

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