

Just a plain flat plateau

Erbil ☪ ❖ 🔮 ● ✖ □ ♪ ● ◆

I think to be normal is to be the version of something when it's left to its own devices, like the default on a computer system. You are born into it. For example, the traits that you are born with, such as a talent for drawing, remain throughout life even if you don't work on them. They are innate.

For me, normal is like a flat plateau. There are no meteors that have fallen on this flatness nor can you witness any continental drift on it, it's just a plain flat plateau.

If you think of normality as a food, I think it would be flavourless. It is the state of food when it lacks flavour. When you are cooking, let's say you're 🍷🍷&✖️🍷 🍷🍷&🍷 🍷🍷&🍷🍷, you may choose to add a bit of flavour by putting in a little garlic, basil or bay leaf. Lots of people just put the potatoes into the oven. That is the normal part. Yet little things change the taste and make a difference. Experimenting makes something tastier. Even though it doesn't taste better for everyone, it adds flavour.

I remember feeling normal when I was in elementary school, when I was not sufficiently aware of what I was doing with my life. I used to go to swimming lessons or guitar lessons but there wasn't any true passion for me. I wasn't thinking that I would be successful at guitar playing or in sports. When you're not an A-plus student or the most talented, you feel normal. It was normal, back then. 🔮 ● ❖ □ ◆ ● ♪ ✖️.

As you mature, you get to experience different flavours. Once you decide baked potatoes taste better with basil, you may become addicted to that taste. Experimenting and trying things out leads you to discover yourself, your preferences. Once you find what you truly like to do in life, you feel it in your bones; it becomes the essence of your life. It becomes something natural, something where you do not even question its

normality. It is like enjoying something and at the same time getting a better result.

These days I notice that it's what I strive for that separates me from normality. Investing a special kind of energy in the things that you truly care about, that's what breaks you out of the mundane. Some may call it having a passion.

On the other hand, it's the things that you rarely do or have never done before that are least normal to you. Repetition in daily life is what makes normal behaviour. For example, swiping an Oyster card every morning or climbing stairs while coming here. There are not many experimental ways of swiping your Oyster card. Repetition generates normality.

However, I would argue that normality is still dependent on location and culture. In Turkey, my home country, lots of people live their lives without questioning. When you do not try to ask better questions or continue to live without questioning life, you stay more normal, I guess. Critical thinking is not that common. There are widespread judgemental views on people that come up with new, experimental ideas, snap judgements that they are not going to "save the world". I think that expression is the obvious sign of people who are stuck in the mundane. It's not about saving the world. It should be more about individuals following their own path and chasing their dreams. It's easier to follow the norm, but the hard way is to go after your passion or freedom. I would like to believe that things might change in the future. It would be nicer if we had the popcorn effect in Turkey, where ideas of people who are chasing different things will pop out at different times and freedom of experimenting, also earning money from that, will be more possible.

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Translated from Turkish by Yonca Keremoğlu