

# A Note on Kites and the Human Sense of Reality: Ten Philosophical Premises Prefaced by a Haiku

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for Naomi

**kite on end of string  
pulling hard away from you  
let go, watch it fall**

1. The kite tries to escape from your grasp as you hold it by its string. It does not love you. In fact, it hates you.
2. The kite does not desire freedom from your grasp. Instead, it is the wind's will. The wind wants to claim the kite.
3. The wind has no desire to own the kite, or keep it, as such a thing is not possible. The wind is inanimate and unconscious. In essence, the wind's pull on the kite is the product of your own will and none other.
4. You are saddened by the kite's desire to escape, and jealous of the wind's pull. All of this because you think you own the inanimate kite object, consider your claim to be unique, and refute all other claims. And yet, you tempt the wind.
5. Each item has an intrinsic value. The wind must blow. The kite must harness wind. You must hold the string.
6. It is arrogant to ascribe purpose to inanimate things. There is no such thing as intrinsic purpose. A kite on the floor is still a kite.
7. Without ascribing purpose to things, you are unable to function in the world. So you create a set of rules and values for things like kites and wind. Everything you consider to be knowledge is made up, and probably wrong.
8. And even knowing this, there is one thing that you feel certain of.
9. You, the kite, and the wind all work in harmony to create an effect that you find to be pleasurable. So why worry about it? Why not fly your kite?
10. To paraphrase the words of Socrates, "The unexamined life is worth living."

