

If (Revisited)

by [Sean Bw Parker](#) (August 2025)



Happy Thought (Charles Samuel Keene, 1876)

If you post on social media after drinking
If you have a drunken one night stand
If you disobey a brand new law
We will remove you from the land

That you know, and place you elsewhere
If you question a religion in the public sphere
Or call out others for being unfair
We will drag you silently back to where

If you can't see the evidence you know exists
If you can't get an answer from those who know
You'll repent at leisure for even asking

We will test to see how low you can go

Even if you never wanted the fifteen minutes at all
It will destroy the lives of your family and friends
Deflecting questions and picking up pieces
Tense against power and looking towards ends

Always promised, but stretching infinitum
Testing the resolve of non-pliant citizens
Hoping they can somehow fold it all into growth
If they can manage to pivot from years to seconds

If those under the microscope can do all this
For nothing more than not playing the game
Of pretending, of not following instincts
They may just survive, if never quite the same.

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[Table of Contents](#)

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