

“Dinner & Drinks”  
Nicholas Katsafanas

Mode: >.667  
1403:1994 70.4%

“Well, no,” were the two words  
Cloud began with as he explained  
that his point was that  
there was a significant distinction  
between the two,  
meaning dinner and drinks!—  
that if you make it out like  
it’s “just drinks”  
and then last minute  
it becomes dinner?—  
then yeah Cloud’s gonna be  
a little fucking pissed off!

Especially if he didn’t know  
the fucking people, you know Aerith?

How did that make  
any sense?

He found it a bit absurd,  
frankly.

Sure,  
he’d go tie one or two on  
with a total stranger, that was fine,  
but to sit down and actually  
engage in a dinner?—  
that was an entirely distinct level  
of socializing,

and it was one that, frankly,  
Cloud didn't particularly care for.

And he wasn't ashamed to admit it!—  
that, frankly, he felt this Philistine notion  
of just "going out to dinner"  
with any and every acquaintance,  
that if you didn't acquiesce to that  
standard then you would be deemed, what?—  
anti-social?

Well color Cloud anti-social then!

But Aerith noted that while, sure,  
to be fair, it was a different level  
of socialization,  
if he truly didn't know the people,  
but, you know,  
if it was her personally?

Supposing it was Aerith,  
then she'd hope that it wouldn't be  
that big of a deal to Cloud?

To just go out to dinner?

Was she kidding him?!

Oh, of course not, Aerith! With her?

You fucking kidding?

Cloud was always down  
to grab a nosh with someone like her,  
no, it was just that the

hypothetical notion  
of eating supper  
with a complete stranger  
("a more or less complete stranger")—  
what were they discussing?

Cloud and the hypothetical stranger?

Did he have to come prepared  
with a portfolio of talking points?—

Cloud couldn't imagine that  
they'd be super intrigued  
with anything he had to say,  
or that they'd end up  
on the precipice of any revelation  
that he'd conclude to be  
particularly enlightening either.

Cloud was simply  
going by empirical evidence really.

That was all—he wasn't, like,  
trying to be a dick or anything!

Just that, empirically speaking,  
it seemed unlikely  
they'd have a lot to converse about,  
Cloud and this hypothetical stranger.

But Aerith added that,  
to be fair, wasn't Cloud  
the one who was always railing  
against so-called sensory data?

Yet, in this case,  
he was all bent out of shape  
about this impromptu dinner  
because, in his own words,  
because of empirical data?

Of past experience,  
which was sensory data?

Memories, right?

Which, wouldn't Cloud agree,  
was some of the most  
unreliable data available no?

Of course he did! Aerith,  
even fucking quantum physics  
was still fundamentally  
sense-forward, in the sense  
that they were beginning with  
sense perception—  
this was what contemporary  
so-called science  
had achieved of course!

Placing sense perception  
as an apex predator  
until finally, with the discovery  
of quantum physics,  
it'd reduced the observable world  
to a degree that even linear  
sense-perception no longer  
made any fucking sense  
in the upper worlds!

That was what they'd done,  
and quite smugly at times too!—  
but wasn't that what Cloud was doing  
with this impending dinner?

Aerith queried him on this point.

Well, Cloud supposed that,  
thinking about it again, yeah,  
he was kind of acting like a  
quantum physicist a bit, wasn't he?

Well, Aerith was just saying—  
to the extent that his argument was  
fundamentally empirical,  
but it was kind of intuitive  
in a sense too, his argument,  
in Cloud's opinion.

He agreed with Aerith  
to the extent that, yes,  
he was basing his disgust  
partially on empirical evidence,  
but he'd also allege  
that he felt an intuitive disgust  
with these types of social gatherings  
as well, and then he,  
to her point, to be blunt,  
did tend to dip into the world  
of empiricism to validate  
said intuitive disgust.

Although, technically,  
they should probably be  
a little cautious to even employ

the word empiricism here,  
because he didn't think empiricism  
necessarily needed to be  
restricted to sense-perception  
necessarily, you know?

Aerith supposed there, yes,  
was probably an empiricism  
of the intelligible realm as well?

Honestly, to Cloud—  
it was certainly possible  
that he maybe wasn't even  
in the best mind state to even  
assess it one way or another.

Aerith took advantage of this  
capitulation to say  
she'd recently had a dream  
about Cloud—  
would he mind hearing her out?—  
where he was emailing her a  
question about  
whether a specific action  
was defined as  
'insider trading', while she was  
processing some non-descript  
'orders' for something  
in a bath tub,  
which consisted of,  
for some reason,  
washing large chocolate cookies  
down the drain,  
watching them  
as they slowly disintegrated

under the hot water, then,  
after that, realizing that  
the cookies related to  
Cloud's question  
about insider trading,  
she contemplated  
if she should have flushed them  
all down the drain  
before answering the question?

Did she do wrong by Cloud  
by washing these cookies  
preemptively down the drain?

If Cloud truly wanted  
the "order processed", so to speak.  
In a sense Aerith  
felt an affinity for the cookies,  
didn't she, Cloud inferred.

Cloud postulated that she felt like  
they were actual beings  
as she crumbled them  
down the unforgiving drain  
with the scorching hot water?

In retrospect, Aerith admitted  
that that may have been the case.  
Cloud noted that there  
was a certain "level of gnosis"  
achieved through  
contemplating your dreams—  
yet was there any to be gleaned  
from participating  
in double date dinners?

Aerith admitted she'd been clinging  
onto the fact of the cookies  
being washed down the drain,  
and she knew Cloud  
had a particular talent  
when it came to interpreting dreams.

Well then let's see here,  
Cloud contemplated,  
the dissolution of a sweet food  
in an apparatus usually used  
to clean yourself?

But with a transactional,  
abutting capitalist  
undertone.

And Aerith was doing it,  
perhaps unintentionally,  
for someone else (Cloud),  
without their knowledge,  
and not only  
without their knowledge  
but while ignoring their inquiry—  
actually, Cloud guessed  
it was his inquiry technically,  
about whether it was legal,  
as apparently  
this was somehow potentially  
'insider trading'?

So she was repurposing  
an apparatus  
for cleansing the body

to destroy large, life-like  
pieces of unhealthy food  
for Cloud, without his consent,  
Cloud meanwhile wondering  
if destroying this junk food  
in a bath tub  
was actually illegal?

Of course in any dream  
they also should consider  
whether what was represented  
was a representation  
of another representation,  
meaning maybe not  
an analogy at all?

But if they proceeded  
as if what was represented  
in Aerith's dream appeared  
as it was intended to appear,  
then that would be a decent start.

So, in a sense,  
Aerith thought,  
that she was cleaning  
particular attributes of Cloud  
without his permission,  
while Cloud was thinking—  
perhaps suspecting—  
that cleansing himself  
in this way may have actually  
been a type of insider trading,  
it could have been  
a very serious crime.

Cloud noted that—Aerith,  
cleaning yourself was  
"basically a crime  
against the state these days".

No surprise there!

Although Cloud liked  
a nice cookie every now and then,  
he didn't necessarily  
find anything  
that bad about  
eating a few cookies on occasion,  
but Cloud also found it  
intriguing that Aerith personally  
identified with the cookies  
as they broke apart  
and tumbled down the drain,  
that she saw a certain goodness,  
a specific being within them,  
and subsequently felt  
a sadness at the fact  
they had to be washed  
down the drain of this bath tub.

Even what's fundamentally  
bad for you  
isn't necessarily bad,  
Aerith noted.

But yes, it was sad to see  
them fall apart  
in a bath tub faucet, huh?

"Even the running shoes

you need to toss into the trash  
are eternal," Cloud said.

(Footnotes)

Mode: >.667

Total Echoes: 1,403

Total Syllables: 1,994

Approximate Self-Similarity: 70.4%

“[W]ell, no,” [w]ere the two [w]ords C[[]]oud began [w]ith as he ex[p][[]]ained [th]at his [p]oint was [th]at [th]ere was a [s][i]gn[i]ff[i]c[ant d[i][s]t[i]n[c]tion be[t]w[ee]n the [t]wo, m[ea]ning [d][i]nner and [d]r[i]nks! - that if you [m]a[k]e it out [i]f[k]e it’s just [d]rin[k][s] and then [i]a[s]t [m]i[n]ute it [b]e[c]omes [d]i[n]ner? - then yeah C[[]]oud’s gonna [b]e a [i]ittle [f]u[c]king [p]i[s]sed o[f]f! E[s][p]eciall[y] i[f] h[e] [d]i[d]n’t k[n]o[w the [f]u[c]king [p]eo[p]le, you k[n]o[w [A]e[r]ith? How did that ma[k]e [a]ny [s]en[s]e? He [f]ound it [a] [b]it [a][b][s]urd, [f]r[an]k[l]y. Sure, he’d go [t]i[e] one or [t]wo on with a [t]otal [s]tr[a]nger, that was f[i]ne, but to [s]it [d]own [a]nd [a][c]tually e[n]g[a]ge in a [d]i[n]ner? - that was a[n] e[n]tirely [d]i[s]t[i]n[c]t [i]level of [s]ocia[l]izing, and it [w]as [o]ne that, [f]ran[k][l]y, C[[]]oud [d]i[d]n’t parti[c]u[l]ar[l]y [c]are [f]or. [A]nd he wasn’t ashamed to [a]dm[it] [i]t! - th[at], [f]ran[k][l]y, he [f]elt th[at] [Ph]i[l]i[s]tine n[ot]io[n] of ju[s]t g[o]i[n]g out to [d]inner with an[y] and ever[y] a[c]quaintan[c]e, that [i]f you [d]i[d]n’t a[c]quie[s]ce to [th]at [s]tan[d]ard [th]en you [w]ould b[e] [d]e[e]med, [w]hat? - ant[i]-s[oc]ial? [W]ell [c]o[l]or C[[]]oud ant[i]-s[oc]ial then! [B]ut Aerith n[ot]ed that while, sure, to [b]e [f]air, it was a dif[f]erent [i]level of s[oc]ia[l]ization, if he tru[l]y [d]i[d]n’t k[n]o[w the [p]eo[p]le, but, you k[n]o[w, if it was he[r] [p]e[r]s[on]al[l]y? [S]u[p]posing it was Aerith, then she’d h[o]p[e] that it woul[d]n’t [b]e that [b]ig of a [d]eal [t]o C[[]]oud? [T]o just go [ou]t to [d]i[n]ner? Was she k[i]d[d]ing him?! Oh, of [c]ourse not, Ae[r]ith! With her?

You fu[c]king [k]id[d]ing? [C]loud [w]as al[w]ays [d]own to  
 g[r]ab a [n]osh with s[o]me[o]ne li[k]e her, [n][o], it was  
 just [th]at [th]e hypo[th]eti[c]al [n][o]tion of [ea]ting  
 [s]u[p]per with a [c]om[p][l][i]te [s]tranger (“a mo[r]e o[r]  
 [l]e[s]s [c]om[p][l]ete [s]tranger”) - [w]hat [w]ere they  
 di[s][c]u[s]sing? [C]loud and the hy[p]o[th]eti[c]al stranger?  
 [D]id [h]e [h]ave to [c]ome [p]re[p]ared with a  
 [p]ortf[o][l]i[o] of tal[k]ing [p]oints? - [C][l]oud [c]oul[d]n’t  
 [i]magine [th]at [th]ey’d b[e] [s]u[p]per [i]ntr[i]gued with  
 an[y]thing [h]e [h]ad to [s]ay, or [th]at [th]ey’d [e]nd u[p]  
 on the [p]r[e]c[i]p[i]c[e] of [a]ny r[e]v[e]lation that he’d  
 [c]on[c]lude to b[e] [p]arti[c]u[l]ar[l]y en[l]ighten[i]ng  
 [e]ither. [C][l]oud was [s]im[p]l[y] going by [e]m[p]i[r]i[c]al  
 [e]viden[c]e [r]ea[l]ly. That [w]as all. He [w]asn’t, [l]i[k]e,  
 tr[y]ing to be a dick or [a]nything! Ju[s]t that,  
 [e]m[p]iri[c]al[l]y [s]p[e]a[k]ing, it [s]eemed  
 un[l]ikel[y] they’d have [a] lot to [c]onver[s]e [a]bout,  
 [C]loud and [th]i[s] hy[p]o[th]eti[c]al [s]tranger. [B]ut  
 [A]erith [a]dded that, to [b]e fair, [w]asn’t [C]loud the  
 [o]ne who [w]as al[w]ays r[ai]ling again[s]t [s]o-[c]alled  
 [s]en[s]ory data? Yet, in thi[s] [c]a[s]e, he was [a]ll [b]ent  
 [ou]t of sh[a]p[e] [a]b[ou]t this im[p]romp[tu] [d]inner  
 [b]e[c]ause, in his own words, [b]e[c]ause of  
 [e]m[p]i[r]i[c]al [d]ata? Of [p]a[st] [e]x[p]er[i]en[c]e,  
 [w]hich [w]as [s]en[s]o[r]y [d]ata? [M]e[m]o[r]ies, [r]ight?  
 [W]hich, [w]ouldn’t [C]loud ag[r]ee, was [s]ome of the  
 mo[s]t un[r]eli[a]b]le [d]a[ta] [a]v[ai]la[b]le no? Of  
 [c]our[s]e he [d]id! Aer[i]th, ev[e]n [f]u[ck]ing [q]uantum  
 [p]h[y]s[i]c[s] was [s]till [f]un[d]amentally  
 [s]en[s]e-[f]orward, in the [s]en[s]e [th]at [th]ey were  
 beg[i]nn[i]ng w[i]th [s]en[s]e [p]er[c]e[p]tion - this [w]as  
 [w]hat [c]ontem[p]o[r]a[r]y [s]o-[c]alled [s]cien[c]e had  
 [a]chieved [o]f [c]our[s]e! [P]la[c]ing [s]en[s]e  
 [p]er[c]e[p]tion [a]s [a]n a[p]ex [p]re[d]ator un[t]il [f]inally,  
 with the [d]i[s][c]ove[r]y of [q]uan[tum] [p]h[y]s[i]c[s], [i]t’d

[r]e[d]u[c]ed the obse[r]vable wo[r]ld to a [d]egr[e]e that  
 [e]ven [l]inear [s]en[s]e-[p]er[c]e[p]tion no [l]onger [m]ade  
 any fu[ck]ing [s]en[s]e in the u[p]per [w]orlds! [Th]at  
 [w]as [w]hat [th]ey'd done. [A]nd [q]uite [s][m]ugly [a]t  
 [t]imes [t]oo! But [w]asn't that [w]hat [C]loud [w]as  
 [d]oing w[i]th th[i]s im[p]en[d]i[ng] [d]i[n]ner? Ae[r]ith  
 [q]ue[r]ied him on thi[s] [p]oint. Well, [C]loud [s]u[p]posed  
 [th]at, [th]in[k]ing [a]bout it [a]gain, yeah, he was [k]ind of  
 a[c]ting li[k]e a [q]uantum [ph][y]s[i]c[i]st a b[i]t, [w]asn't  
 he? [W]ell, Aerith [w]as just saying - to [th]e [e]xtent  
 [th]at his argu[m]ent was [f]unda[m]e[n]tally [e]mpirical.  
 But it was [k]ind of [i]n[t]uitive [i]n a [s]en[s]e [t]oo, his  
 argument, i[n] [C]loud's opi[n]ion. H[e] agr[e]ed with  
 A[e]rith to the [e]xtent that, ye[s], he was [b]a[s]ing his  
 [d]i[s]gu[s]t [p]artially on [e]m[p]irical [e]vi[d]en[c]e, [b]ut  
 he'd [a]ll[s]o [a]ll[e]ge that he f[e]lt a[n] i[n]tuitive  
 [d]i[s]gu[s]t with these [t]y[p]es of [s]ocial g[a]therings  
 [a]s well, and then [h]e, [t]o [h]er [p]oint, [t]o [b]e [b]llunt,  
 [d]i[d] [t]end [t]o [d]i[p] i[n] [t]o the world of em[p]iri[c]ism  
 to va[l]i[d]ate [s]aid i[n]tuitive [d]i[s]gu[s]t. Although,  
 [t]e[c]hni[c]al[l]y, they should [p]ro[b]a[b]ly [b]e a  
 [l]ittle [c]autious to ev[e]n [e]m[p]loy the word  
 [e]m[p]iri[c]ism here, be[c]ause he [d]i[d]n't th[i]n[k]  
 em[p]iri[c]ism [n]e[c]e[s]sa[r]il[y] [n]eeded to b[e]  
 [r]e[s]tr[i]c[t]ed to [s]en[s]e-[p]er[c]e[p]tion  
 [n]e[c]e[s]sa[r]il[y], you k[n]ow? Ae[r]ith [s]u[p]posed  
 the[r]e, ye[s], was [p]ro[b]a[b]ly [a]n [e]m[p]iri[c]ism of  
 the intel[l]igi[b]le [r]ealm as w[e]ll? Hone[s]t[l]y, to  
 C[l]oud - it was [c]ertain[l]y [p]o[s]si[b]le that h[e]  
 may[b]e wasn't [e]ven in the [b]e[s]t mind [s]tate to  
 even [a]s[s]e[s]s it [o]ne [w]ay or [a]nother. [A]erith too[k]  
 [a]dvantage of this [c]apitu[l]a[tion to [s]ay sh[e]'d  
 [r]e[c]ent[l]y had [a] d[r]eam [a]bout [C]loud -  
 would [h]e mind [h]earing [h]er out? - [w]here he [w]as  
 emailing her a [q]ues[ti]on [a]bout whether [a]

[s][p]e[c]i[f]i[c] a[c][t]ion was [d]e[f]ined as 'in[s]i[d]er tra[d]in[g]', while she was [p]roce[s]sin[g] [s]ome non-[d]e[s][c]ri[p]t 'or[d]ers' for [s]omething in a bath t[u]b, which [c]on[s]i[s]ted [o]f, for [s]ome [r]eason, w[a]shing [l]arge ch[o][c]o[l]ate [c]oo[k]ies [d]own the [d][r]ain, [w]atching [th]em as [th]ey [s][l]ow[l]y [d][i]s[i]nteg[r]ated un[d]er the hot [w]ater. Then, after [th]at, [r]ea[l]izing [th]at [th]e [c]oo[k]ies [r]e[l]a[te]d to [C]l[oud]'s [q]ue[s]tion about in[s]i[d]er [t][r]a[ding], she [c]on[t]emp[t]ed if [sh]e [sh]ould have [f]l[ushed] them all [d]own the [d][r]ain be[f]ore an[s]we[r]ing the [q]ue[s]tion? [D]id she [d]o w[r]ong [b]y [C]l[oud] [b]y washing these [c]oo[k]ies [p]r[emptive[l]y [d]own the [d][r]ain? If [C]l[oud] [t]ru[l]y wan[t]ed the 'order [p]ro[c]e[s]sed,' [s]o to [s]p[ea]k. In a [s]e[n]s[e] Aerith [f]e[el]t an a[f]f[i]n[i]t[y] [f]or the [c]oo[k]ie[s], [d]i[d]n't sh[e], [C]l[oud] in[f]erred. [C]l[oud] [p]ostu[l]ated [th]at she [f]e[el]t [l]ike [th]ey were [a]c[tual [b]eings [a]s she [c]r[um]b[le]d [th]em [d]own [th]e un[f]org[i]v[i]ng [d][r]ain [w]ith the [s]c[or]ching hot [w]ater? In [r]e[t]ro[s]p[ec]t, [A]erith [a]d[m]itted [th]at [th]at [m]ay have been the [c]a[s]e. [C]l[oud] [n]o[t]ed [th]at [th]ere was a [c]ertain [l]evel of g[n]o[s]is ach[ie]ved through [c]ontem[p]l[ating] your dr[ea]ms - yet was there any to [b]e g[ai]ned from [p]artici[p]a[ting] in [d]ou[b]le [d]a[te] [d]inners? [A]erith [a]dmitted she'd [b]een [c]l[inging] onto the fa[c]t of the [c]oo[k]ies [b]eing washed [d]own the [d]rain, and she knew [C]l[oud] had a [p]ar[t]icu[l]ar [t]a[l]ent when [i]t [c]ame to [i]n[t]er[p]r[et]ing [d]r[ea]ms. W[e]ll th[e]n [l]e[t]'s [s]ee here, [C]l[oud] [c]on[t]em[p]l[ated], the [d]i[s]so[l]ution of a [s]w[e]et [f]ood in an [a]p[par]a[tu[s] [u]sual[l]y [u]sed t[o] [c]l[ean] your[s]e[l]f? [B]u[t with a [t]ra[n]s[a]c[tional, a[b]u[tting [c]a[p]ita[l]i[s]t un[d]er[t]one. [A]nd [A]erith was [d]oing it, [p]erh[a]ps unint[e]ntional[l]y, for

[s]omeone [e]lse ((C)[l][ou]d), with[ou]t their  
 k[n]ow[li]edge, and [n]ot on[l]y [w]ith[ou]t their  
 k[n]ow[li]edge but [w]hile [i]g[n]oring their [i]n[q]uir[y] -  
 a[c]tual[l]y, [C]loud guessed it [w]as h[is] [i]n[q]uir[y]  
 te[c]h[n]i[c]all[y], about [w]hether it [w]as [l]egal, as  
 a[p]parent[l]y this was [s]omehow [p]otential[l]y  
 'in[s]ider trading'? So sh[e] was [r][e][p]ur[p]o[s]ing [a]n  
 [a][p]pa[r]a[tus for [c][l]eaning the bo[d]y to [d]e[s]troy  
 [l]arge, [l]ife-[l]i[k]e [p]ie[c]es [o]f [u]nhealthy [f]ood [f]or  
 [C][l]oud, [w]ith[ou]t his [c]on[s]ent, [C][l]oud mean[w]hile  
 [w]on[d]ering i[f] [d]e[s]troying thi[s] jun[k] [f]ood in a  
 b[a]th tub was [a][c]tua[l]l[y] i[l]l[e]gal? Of [c]our[s]e in  
 any [d]ream they al[s]o should [c]on[s]i[d]er [w]hether  
 [w]h[at [w]a[s [r]e[p]r]esented [w]as [a]  
 [r]e[p]r]esen[t]ation [o]f [a]nother [r]e[p]r]esen[t]ation,  
 [m]ea[n]ing [m]ayb[e] [n]ot [a]n [a][n]a[l]og[y] [a]t all? But  
 i[f] they [p][r]o[c]e[e]d[ed] as i[f] [w]hat [w]as  
 [r]e[p]r]esented in Ae[r]ith's [d][r][e]am a[p]p[e]ared as  
 [i]t was [i]n[t]en[d]ed [t]o a[p]pear, [t]hen [t]hat would b[e]  
 a [d]e[c]ent [s]tart. [S]o, in a [s]en[s]e, Aerith [t]hought,  
 [t]hat sh[e] was [c][l]eaning [p]articu[l]ar attributes of  
 [C][l]oud with[o]ut his [p]erm[i]ss[i]on, [w]hile [C][l]oud  
 [w]as th[i]n[k]i[n]g - [p]erha[p]s [s]u[s]p[e]c[t]ing - that  
 [c][l]eaning him[s]elf [i]n th[is] w[ay] m[ay] h[ave]  
 [a][c]tual[l]y been a [t]y[p]e of insider [t]rading, it [c]ould  
 have been a ve[r]y [s]er[i]ou[s] [c][r]ime. [C]loud  
 [n]ot[ed] that - Ae[r]ith, [c][l]eaning your[s]elf was  
 b[a][s]i[c]ally [a] [c][r]ime [a]gain[s]t [t]he [s]t[ate] [t]hese  
 d[ay]s. [N][o] [s]urprise [t]here! Al[th]ough [C]loud  
 [l]i[k]ed a [n]i[c]e [c]oo[k]ie [e]very [n]ow and th[e]n, he  
 [d]i[d]n't [n]e[c]e[s]sarily [f]ind a[n]ything th[at b][a]d  
 a[b]out [ea]ting a [f]ew [c]oo[k]ies on o[c]casion, but  
 [C]loud also [f]ound it intr[i]guing that Aerith [p]ersonally  
 [i]denti[f]i[ed] with [t]he [c]oo[k]ies as [t]hey [b]r[o]k[e]  
 a[p]art and tum[b]led [d]own the [d][r]ain, that she [s]aw

a [c]ertain goodnes[s], a [s]pe[c]i[f]i[c] [b]eing w[i]th[i]n them, and [s]u[b]s[e]q[ue]ntly [f]elt a [s]a[d]ne[s]s [a]t the [f]a[ct] they h[a]d to [b]e washed [d]own the [d]rain of this [b]a[th] tub. Even what's fundamental[l][y] [b]ad for you isn't [n]e[c]e[s]sari[l][y] [b]ad, Aerith [n]oted. [B]ut ye[s], it was [s]ad to [s]ee them [f]a[ll] [a]part in [a] [b]a[th] t[u]b [f]a[uc]et, h[u]h? “[E]ven the [r]unning shoes you n[ee]d to [t]o[s]s in[t]o the [t]r[ash] are e[t]ernal,” Cloud [s]aid.