

Letter

The value of taking things slowly in a world of hares

From Eric J Henderson, Queens, NY, US



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Sir, Upon reading the headline “[The languid pleasures of slow investing](#)” (The Undercover Economist, February 10), the peripatetic instinct awoke and I almost skipped the column. However, there is a stronger instinct: the one that has me carrying the FT Weekend edition for a full week or two at each turn, reading with pen in hand and making notations as if I were speaking with the author.

Sometimes, I am self-conscious on New York subways, as more than a few people are still amused by a crumpled pink paper and I imagine that someone would actually care enough to note the date and, subsequently, my living in the past. So, this letter is quite late by modern attention standards. But I am glad I stopped to read Tim Harford. He not only makes a point on the current hair-pulling with regard to market fluctuations and the value of being a lazy investor concerned with years, not days, but he also makes a broad and telling commentary on who we are today. We may claim intellectual knowledge of the tortoise and the hare, but the moral of that story is, in fact, an embarrassing belief to hold in a public whose emotions run with the hare every single day — returns, history, and science be damned.

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