

## **The Change I Want to Make**

(Original)

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Nature. There is probably nothing closer to me, or more important. However, it's clear that year after year, more of nature is being destroyed. How will this affect our lives, and what will happen to this earth that we live on? It pains my heart to think about these things.

I believe that we are part of nature, and therefore, when we go out into nature it is healing for us. I love to play with my iPad, but even for me, going camping on an island where there's no Wi-Fi is strangely healing, and makes my senses more alert. I can hear the wind and waves and the chirping of small birds, which I usually can't hear over the noise of cars. I can smell the grass and the freshly cut wood, and when I look up at the many stars scattered throughout the sky, I can feel that I am part of nature. In that environment, it even seems like all the fighting in the world has disappeared. When we go out in nature, mysteriously, we feel good despite the inconveniences.

So, why are we destroying nature? I tried thinking about this in my own way. The first reason, I think, is the pursuit of convenience. We are always trying to make our lives even a little more convenient. For example, in Japan, there is an abundance of different types of electronic devices, toys, and other products. The pace of progress and change is faster than in Canada. This provides a lot of convenience, but as a result, people end up throwing away things that can still be used. It seems that they are overflowing with things they don't need, and the amount of trash is increasing. The more convenient our lives become, the more of nature is lost.

I have lived in Canada since I was little. In my own way, I see the differences between Canada and Japan, and the good points of each. Whenever I go back to Japan, I feel that people are very busy and on edge. As if symbolizing this, there are artificial lights and sounds flashing everywhere, and the noise of cars and the stuffy air feel suffocating. On the other hand, I think Japan is really convenient and comfortable. But it's also true that by

pursuing convenience too much, we are causing the destruction of nature all over the world. If we keep trying to make life even a little more convenient, choosing material wealth over wealth in our heart, what will things be like in the future?

Human beings are meant to live together with nature, I think. Nature that has been destroyed once can never return to its original state. Realizing this, what can we do to prevent nature from being destroyed anymore? I think the thing to do is not to pursue convenience so much. Compared to Japan, Canada seems inconvenient. Yet, people in Canada are living happily enough. Even without all the conveniences, we can still be happy and enjoy life. It's because I have the experience of living in both Canada and Japan that I was able to realize this. And it's because I realized this that I would like to change the way the world is now, in which we pursue only convenience. I think we need to recognize that, although convenience can be enjoyable, we are also losing something very valuable, and that we can be happy even without pursuing convenience. We need to know this so that the destruction of nature does not continue.

These days in school, we are learning about outer space. Although there are so many things that we still don't know about the universe, the earth is part of it, and despite how beautiful the earth is when we look at it from space, on earth all kinds of changes are happening. If the world becoming more convenient means that we are losing many things, then I think it's important to have a mindset of not pursuing and accumulating more than we need. I believe that as each person changes their mind and makes efforts to do this, something will change.