

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – 1st Prize]

Your future begins today

(Original)

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Dear Coji of 2020,

You would never have expected a letter from me in your wildest dreams. However, I am writing to you as your future is my present reality now.

Do you remember how you predicted that in ten years, people will be living on Mars and that every child will beg Santa Claus to bring them jet packs for Christmas? Unfortunately, neither of those things have happened yet.

However, over the last few years, there have been many changes. Changes we didn't expect, have crept up on us slowly so that we didn't even feel it, but when we look back at the world we live in, it has altered considerably.

Scientists have discovered that now, they can treat life-threatening diseases that they earlier thought were incurable. With the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics, doctors have made advancements in the field of medicine, and people are enjoying its benefits today.

Schools have changed drastically in the last decade. Along with subjects like Math, English, and Science; - Self-awareness, Diversity, and Social responsibility have made it into the curriculum. So, as a result, people evaluate their decisions by seeing if it can pass through these three gates: "Is it beneficial to me? Is it beneficial to others? Is it beneficial to the world at large?" These actions have made us more human in the best way possible.

People smile a lot now. They seem genuinely happy from inside out. I thought you'll be pleased to hear that.

War is a thing of the past. People still have disagreements, but they have learned to value each other's differences without expecting everyone to be the same. Communication



and understanding have superseded suspicion and prejudice, and this has made our communities peaceful.

The world has turned more eco-conscious now. The 3R concept of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle is integrated into the very being of people and to their daily lives, but it doesn't stop there. Our generation has built on that foundation. We have introduced a more advanced 3R concept of Rethink, Reimagine, and Reinvent, which we are striving towards, with great enthusiasm. For instance, instead of cutting trees to make way for housing, homes are artfully designed to stand atop tree branches. Needless to say, children everywhere are delighted with this!

I must now tell you about something more personal. Do you remember the rose-apple sapling that you planted ten years ago? Can you remember how you watered it, faithfully, each day and how, as soon as you woke up each morning, you would rush to see if it had sprouted new leaves? Can you also recall how you would measure it painstakingly each day with your ruler, to see if it was any taller than the previous day? I remember how happy you were if it was, and how unhappy you were if it wasn't. A decade has gone by, and you are now at university, miles away from home. Yet the rose-apple tree is still there. Just that it is much taller now, with branches spreading overhead, and it's laden with luscious red fruits. After you left home for your higher studies, your parents were lonely without you. They missed the frolic that you and your friends got up to and the laughter that filled the house each day, whenever you were at home. However, now, there are small children in your neighborhood, who always come into your garden after school, to pluck some rose-apples with your parents' permission. They fill your house with laughter, and their excited, babbling voices make your parents' faces light up once again.

So, as you can see, every action, no matter how small, has a lasting consequence. Sometimes, you get to enjoy its benefits, sometimes you don't, but that doesn't matter. What matters is that we do something good, anyway.

Lastly, let me leave you with this thought: What we do today can make a better tomorrow, so chose your actions wisely, for your future is in your hands.

Lots of love,
Coji of 2030