

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – 3rd Prize]

A Diamond In The Rough

(Original)

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Daniela,

You must be wondering why I have chosen to write to you. Why 2030? Why now? Perhaps, it is to tell you that we have achieved world peace. Or that the climate crisis is a thing of the past. Maybe, it is that we can now watch documentaries about the Corona Virus pandemic on History Channel. Would you believe me if I told you the answer lay in a beautiful sunset? As I watch the sun's rays glisten upon the sky's canvas in colours: pink, violet and blue entwined, I believe it is proof that true beauty can only be found in difference.

Let me tell you a tale of my world. A world brought together by the worst of times. Today, the atmosphere is set in a normal like never before. The COVID-19 pandemic was not merely a bend in the fabric of our way of life. It posed a question of significance and priority to many people. What was worth giving away a portion of their lives to and what wasn't? Not once in my wildest dreams would I have imagined that such a tragedy, in the pages of history, could paint such a magnificent future.

Spring cleaning people's priorities, the pandemic created a deeper sense of community. From all the people coming together to build homes for the homeless, to the loving smiles being shared between strangers on the street; kindness has never been more evident. This love is in turn being echoed by our planet. Birds tailored of a thousand colours roam free without fear of being victimised by the sun's rage. The skies are bluer than ever; free from pollution. All these are ripple effects. Not of how much time we had but, what we chose to do with it.

Prior to the outbreak, many people were cyber-focused. They lived life behind their screens and gadgets. They took the people around them for granted. The pandemic seemed to press a pause button on the world. People were detached from the rest of the world and

had their gadgets to keep them company. But, that was not satisfactory enough. They realised the asset in being able to not only be around people but also, to love them and cherish those moments. It is painful to think that only after a calamity like this, which took thousands of lives, did we come to this realisation.

I understand your dream was always to help children with neurological disabilities and give them a chance at a normal childhood. As a paediatric neurosurgeon, this dream is still close to my heart. I now believe my influence should go beyond the operation theatre. That is why I partner with countless child care organisations around the globe to help children with disabilities. I want to help them to realise their worth and show them that they are enough. This is a passion that I would never trade for anything else. These children have more courage than I ever could. Their smiles in the harshest moments are the greatest gifts I could possibly ask for. No matter how bad my day is, I always go home feeling as though I have touched the life of someone special.

Daniela, I hope by the time you read this you appreciate that in difference lies unfathomable beauty. What some may see as a rainy day, you should see as a prelude for a lovely rainbow. It is only in the rough, that we can find a true diamond. Every day, when you wake up to the sun's rays at sunrise, glistening the sky's canvas with colours: yellow, orange and crimson, remember that it is not always that way. Some days, it's calm lavender and is still so endearing. In the same way, let your difference shine like a light illuminating that of others. Your world could use it, maybe now more than ever.

With love,
You,
Only a decade away.