

Piece by Piece

(Original)

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Dear Younger Self,

What if I told you that the world in 10 years would be occupied by war, inflicted with pandemics and other infectious diseases, or that racial discrimination is commonplace anywhere you go? Would you believe me? Would you run away or accept this supposed fate complacently? If I told you something else did happen, but differently, would you be more willing to believe that? That the world suddenly changed? That people did, too. The air is cleaner, tensions among nations ceased, the environment is much greener, and we all live as one harmonious race despite our occasional shortcomings as individuals. You would love to believe this, would you? You should, because as a matter of fact, it is the truth.

It is the year 2030, and I want to tell you how much change could happen in 10 years, with a little more effort by everyone in the world. Let me give you a picture of how things look from where I am at the moment. Here I am, sitting down on the floor of my airy house, writing this letter as a look at the cluttered desk on my left, with a solar lamp which was a gift to me three years ago. To my right is the door that leads to the kitchen and in front of me is a wide window with a perfect view of the street. Outside, children are playing freely while the adults chat as always with their neighbours, as they all wait in line for ambulant vendors to hand them their goods. The streets are full of people selling food and other items. People don't go to grocery stores as often as before. At the end of the street where I live now is the remnant of a once mountain-like dumpster. The neighbourhood took action and repurposed it to accommodate a small plot of land for alternative crops farming. The healthy soil is being tended by people who suffered financially from the pandemic 10 years ago. With some support from the government and other volunteers, these people who lived in an impoverished state before were given a fresh start.

Things are better now, but that came with a big sacrifice. The world is healing itself, but the marks of abuse are still visible. Majority of the forests in some countries are gone and

have not recovered from the fires that lasted for more than a month. The tsunamis that came a decade ago on some islands ate up some of the most beautiful shorelines one could walk on. Our seas and oceans are still recovering from the years and years of abuse they endured from the piles of trash thrown by irresponsible individuals who could not care less. I can say that our own mistakes as a human race caught up with us, and in a way forced us to work with one another and changed drastically the usual, normal way of how everyone did things. People were compelled to alter the rules, change borders, implement eco-friendly systems, and adopt a more open and equal society. Everyone pushed the planet to its limit, and it gave everyone what they deserved.

I am sending you this letter because I want you to know what is at stake here: it's your future. And that despite the challenges you see around you now, I pray you will remain positive and hopeful. I am writing this to you because I want you to have faith in the future, and a little more faith in yourself. That is all the advice I want to give you for now. I want you to do your best and help while you can, share your opinions without fear, and encourage others to do the same. I leave this task to you with the hope that you may truly have a better future. I promise you, everyone from 2030 continues to learn and fix our ways of living. It may have taken us long, but we learned our lesson and we're slowly building back the world together, piece by piece.

*Love,
Julianne*