

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Letter From My Future Self

(Original)

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That day seemed like any other day. The sun was as bright as ever. The birds chirped as usual. The sky was its usual blue. Nothing had changed. Yet, I had that restless feeling that usually precedents a momentous event. In a flash, the day ended. Still, nothing out of the ordinary had taken place. Dismissing my feelings, I laid down to sleep. Then, the strangest thing happened: I found under my pillow a sealed letter dated 2030. These were the contents of the mysterious letter:

May 22, 2030

Dear 2020 me,

I thank you for the beautiful gift of memory you left me. I thank you for not giving up on your dreams despite the challenges you faced. If you had not done all these, where would I have been today? I'd like to bestow you a gift too- a glimpse into my world.

To begin, the world has changed drastically. Our orientation of the typical white collar job is a far cry from what it was in your time. Nowadays, most people work from home. Offices are used only for extremely important meetings. The only structures used regularly are hospitals, banks and places of worship. This has only been made possible by the advent of new and improved technology. IOT-Internet of Thing-is now quite common. The internet has become an indispensable part of our lives-everything is connected to it. In addition, robots have taken over life-threatening jobs such as mining that once claimed hundreds of lives. Apart from saving lives, this has also made processes cost effective as robots require no payment. This remarkable feat has spread even to developing countries which erstwhile have little or no technological savvy. Perhaps, most pleasing to me is the change in the world's major energy source. We no longer depend solely on crude oil which was

responsible for the almost irreparable damage of the ecosystem. Instead, we are now exploring safer means like the solar and hydroelectric power. This, I know, is quite different from your own world.

On the other hand, the general lifestyle has barely changed. The most drastic change that has taken place is that people now show a greater tendency to remain closeted in the comfort of their homes. Even the places that would have been teeming with people throughout the day as at 2020 are now completely deserted resulting in a sharp drop in the government revenue from tourism. Personally, I think I can respect the fact that somebody can sit back and share a heart to heart with the screen of his phone. However, the lurking health implications such as obesity are what rankles my brain. Sadly, the majority of the population is yet to realise this. For this reason, sometimes, I wish we weren't this technologically advanced.

Just as you always act on your convictions, I also do - I never lost that penchant. I have established an organization with the sole purpose of getting as many youths as possible involved in sports. We award scholarships to those who show special skills in certain sports. We also organize weekly sports sessions in local schools. Thankfully, our efforts are yielding results.

In addition to these, I own an NGO that is involved in combatting sexual harassment. We reach out to the unfortunate victims of this dangerous pervasion by providing them with medical help, counseling sessions and even education if need be. I am also involved in several other charity works. Nevertheless, I am still a practicing robotics engineer.

All in all, my world is beautiful. My life is splendid. I appreciate your contributions to making me who I am today. I admire your strength and dedication. Keep going. Work hard. Explore your imagination. Do not be discouraged by the problems you would face. I leave you with a message of hope and perseverance, by Sarah Kay who said: "This world is made out of sugar: it crumbles so easily but don't be afraid to stick out your tongue and taste it."

*Yours truly,
Your 2030 self.*

With mixed feelings, I closed the letter and finally went to sleep.

Ref: Quote by Sarah Kay: if I should have a daughter from TED.com