

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

## **A letter from myself in 2030**

(Original)

*Tayyaba Noor*

*(Age 13, Pakistan <Living in U.A.E.>)*

Dear Past Me,

Here you are, in your final semester of freshman year, less than 2 months away from your first day at high school as a sophomore, and you are not prepared one bit. I know you are worrying about where you will end up, what will happen, and how you will get there. However, I can assure you one thing, and that is, you going to be alright.

Tayyaba, life is going to be extremely tough as the years pass, you are going to be continuously challenged and it's going to tire you up pretty quick. Just remember, no matter how demanding life chooses to be, never be like a flag, dependant on the erratic breeze for its direction. Be the captain of your own sail; chart a course and navigate with determination in both choppy waters and fine. You alone are the master of your own destiny and responsible for the keeping of your humanity in the harshness of life. Do that and, no matter what happens, you will be proud of who you are to be.

I know for a fact, that life wasn't the prettiest in 2020. But, as the years went by, we slowly came to realize the core of our failings. It was a bizarre turn of events. Because, at the end of the day, the world wasn't saved by the environmentalists, the scientists or the army. It wasn't saved by charities, petitions or bold speeches. It wasn't changed by the revolutionaries, movements or the NGO's either. But instead it was just the uttermost desperation and need, for this world of fear and destruction to be swapped by one of love and cooperation. Because, as time passed, we learned to understand the idea that, our environment determines our social evolution, and our social evolution determines our biological evolution, which is exactly why the need to develop a loving and concerned environment that supports populations, enables our brains to expand in healthy ways, and promotes our empathy, logic, self-control and ability to be a member of a socially complex species had never been more urgent.

To add to that, we also came to realize that, it was about time that we let go of rancor,

malice and this language of competition and division. It was about time that we embrace kind speech, compassion, empathy and words that bring a sense of togetherness, trust and mutual support. And we did just that, because, now in 2033, we are a community. We are happy, empathic and humane.

I hope this letter served you well. But before, I sign off, I just want to leave you off with a quick note. I know you aren't that that big about love but, let me tell you, no matter your age, you will need love every bit as much as food, water and air. Love is our birthright, an intrinsic part of our soul and what it means to be human. So for my part I'm sending you love right now, I hope you feel it. I pour it into my writing in the hope that it helps. We all need to feel connection. We all need to know we are worthy of love and I promise you that you are.

Faithfully,  
Future you