

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

## **The World Beyond**

(Original)

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"You will never believe what I found in the attic", Ma said, handing me a dog-eared book. "It's my old diary" I gasped and flopped on the floor for a nice read.

When I came down for lunch, I was in a decidedly reminiscent mood. "Something wrong?" my father enquired with concern.

"Huh? No, I'm fine Pa. I'm just lost in nostalgia, I suppose," I said with a grin as I came out of my reflections. "My 14- year old self was so immature. She had no idea about what was going to hit her life. I would love to write a letter to her!" I said, half-jokingly.

"Well, why don't you?" Pa said seriously. "I'm sure it would be very interesting!"

'That's not a bad idea,' I thought. After lunch, I grabbed a paper and pen and began to write.

*Dear Me-From-The-Past*

*How lovely it is to write to you! This is your 24-year-old self! I can imagine you reading this letter in wonder, sitting in your room thinking about what the future may have in store for you and for the world. You are perturbed by the sufferings unleashed by a microscopic organism. It has already claimed millions of lives. Gloom has spread throughout the world. People are afraid for their lives and wonder if things will ever get better, if there's a future to hope for. Many have lost their livelihoods and are in utmost despair.*

*But as always, when we lose all hope, when we perceive nothing but threatening, impenetrable darkness all around us, the dawn brings hope, now in the form of vaccine. Humanity is saved!*

*But what a changed humanity! One which has learnt many hard lessons during those dark times. A new humanity which has learnt to sympathise with all fellow beings. Bonds strengthen and relations are made. The freedom of movement the animals enjoyed when*

*while we were confined to our homes, the sweet sounds of nature we had not noticed so far – the whisper of the wind, the rustle of a falling leaf, the cooing of a dove, the swish of a butterfly's wings all brought us to our senses and made us realise what we had lost so far.*

*Our ruthless and selfish nature has been the root cause for the extinction of innumerable species. We had polluted and defiled our Earth, the only home we've ever known. But, after the pandemic subsided, we had a change of heart. We realised our errors and were determined to rectify them. We adapted. Adapting- the greatest skill of all living things.*

*And thus, began the Great Revolution – one which had no leaders but in which everyone was a leader. Plastic was shunned, pollution was controlled, Mother Earth started regaining her pristine beauty. The global CO2 levels dropped sharply - almost back to pre-human levels. The holes in the ozone disappeared.*

*People realised the truth of Gandhiji's words, "The world has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed". We moved from conspicuous consumption to need based fulfilment. We learnt to share, to give away freely. The difference between 'haves' and have-nots' reduced significantly. There is a new-found feeling of harmony in the atmosphere, harmony with both nature and ourselves.*

*Thanks to our improved lifestyle, we are now much healthier and fitter. It has been discovered that some plants contain a specific chemical- I won't bore you with the details! - which has been known to increase immunity and boost stamina. In fact, I'm working on that project now, and I love every moment of my research!*

*I know what you are going to ask now! And the answer is YES! Humans have been to most planets in our solar system and there may be life in some of them!*

*You have a glorious future ahead of you. All you have to do is to work hard towards it. You played a major role in the Revolution. You made a difference. Everybody did.*

*So, stay strong, and always hope and dream. As I said before, it is a glorious future. And it is all yours.*

*Love you!*

*Stay strong*

*Me-From-The-Present*