

2021 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – 3rd Prize]

The Metamorphosis of a Caterpillar

(Original)

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Have you ever been through a situation where you think life doesn't make any sense at all? As if those burdens were too much to uphold? For years, I keep on searching the purpose and the meaning of life for I've lost myself in a place of total darkness. I pity myself! I couldn't find my own light. I was a pathless teen withstanding all the pressures in my academics, juggling a series of self-insecurities and going through breakdowns, all of which are getting out of my young mind. My remaining life seemed to drift every time and all I could feel was the pain of agony.

Year 2018. It was a summer vacation to our province—Leyte, located in Eastern Visayas, Philippines where those ideologies of mine started to crumble. I was really hesitant to go there, but still, I took part on that trip with the hope of finding my life and light. After such a long ride, we soon arrived at an old-wooden, mid 1900s house that has an undeniably eerie ambiance.

Sunrise and sunsets have passed by, my life would have been the same if I didn't come across a caterpillar, it was thriving and devouring on a tiny guava tree in a wooded part of our backyard. I had a new thing to do now and that is to wonder how long it takes to become a butterfly. Day by day, the caterpillar seemed to get bigger and bigger. But still, I don't get why it has to go through stages when it could just become a butterfly in an instant. Then, the moment I've been waiting for happened, that was when I saw a cocoon. Days turned into several other days, I was getting impatient. I thought I was just there for nothing. It took a really long time for me to witness its true color, but it all paid off when I saw the first glimpse of its body to the first flap of its enchanting wings. Little did I know, I already found the meaning of life within its metamorphosis. That caterpillar is my light. It teaches me that life has to crawl through phases and hardships before we could glow and

learn to fly. I know, I have my own time and I'll become the butterfly of my own life.

As I began to discover life, the end of our vacation rolled around. The sun was shining, the weather was warm and meadows were waving, as if nature was saying goodbye to me. I was delighted to go back to the place where I came from knowing that the hope of finding my life and light before that trip is not only a hope. I don't pity myself anymore! This is the time that my life officially starts and this is just the beginning of my long journey.

Five years from now, I promise to become a biologist. Even if education is uncertain, especially nowadays, I am still eager to study and to be a part of the solution to the worldwide environmental issues. And even as an ordinary youth of the planet Earth now, I can still make an impact on life to this planet. In fact, in my group of friends, I started sharing my knowledge about lessening single-used plastics and switching into more sustainable products and alternatives. Nature helped me to find life and so, I will help nature to sustain its life—this is my purpose, my battle and my life and I will continue doing it until the end of me.

From here, I can see a much more magnificent, sustainable and peaceful world when all lives on this planet unite and cooperate in one mission and altogether amplify nature conservation instead of conversions. With such solidarity, we are allowing future generations the right to live and eyewitness marvelous life in this world.

Until now, even though 3 years have passed by, I sincerely thank that little creature for creating a big change in my life. If I could only share my light to everyone out there who feels lifeless and bring them back to life it would be all worth it.