

2021 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

A Life Well Lived

(Original)

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Life is not just about human existence, or the vibrant growth that we see around us. Life also includes undoubted character, sense of dignity, desires, dreams and lessons learnt.

Life is like a rollercoaster. It has its time of triumph, but also times of defeat. Life also brings in some, a will to serve others, and a passion to achieve big in the world. But it is our choice whether we use these opportunities. We get a lot from this world, yet how much do we give back?

Life is short. We must live it to the fullest. Time does not wait for us. Let us walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming our time.

The earth is not our eternal home. We must make the best use of our valuable time, as harbingers of change. Let us fulfil our needs, but also, think of others on the planet and the coming generations.

To me, life is a chance. Each breath, each minute, each day, is another chance given to make a positive impact, to do good. A quote from the Bible (James 4: 24) says, "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes".

Our world is going through uncertain times. It is alarming, treacherous, unreliable, intimidating and the list goes on. The earth now, is a strange mixture of both kindness and love, along with greed and rivalry, made with:

a cup of war,

a bowl of disagreement,
a cup of pessimism,
a plate of poverty,
an atmosphere of pollution, and a pinch of goodness.

All these make up the unpleasant world, we live in.

But we must make the good, cancel out the bad. Begin from the roots. Begin by abiding to the unwritten rules of creation, to restore its long lost precision, natural beauty and uniqueness. It isn't enough to stop, we must try to put all the damage, right. The recipe is very simple. But it needs determined and willing citizens, who can dedicate a small part of their lives to making the world:

a cup of peace,
a bowl of understanding,
a cup of willing optimists,
a plate of equal rights and values.

All this will make the world seem like a little bit of heaven on earth.

I recall an incident that made me think about the meaning of life:

The unceasing down pours of 2018 caused much havoc throughout the state of Kerala in India. As the water submerged land and caused disastrous landslides, people were left homeless and helpless, stranded and separated from their near and dear ones. This natural calamity affected both the rich and poor, young and old, in either big or little ways.

One and all had a desire to flee. There was much misery and cries for help. Many came, but they could not help the stranded people, with water surrounding them. In the end, local fishermen took up the disaster management and they did it effectively. They had nothing with them, only:

an invisible helmet of compassion,
a shield of valiance,
swords of love and pride for one's own land and citizens.

These brave knights sacrificed all they had, for the lives for many.

Can we not do the same?

Can we not show concern?

Can we not put our lives to some use?

Can we not lend a hand?

These brave fisherman were knights, but without armours, and on boats. They were not abandoning, but redeeming lives.

Out of the whole state, only 483 souls departed, yet those souls departed suddenly! Life is short, as the Bible says (1Peter 1:24) "For, all people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; The grass withers, and the flower fall".

We cannot wish for wrong actions to be undone, yet in our short sojourn on this planet, we can make a new beginning, and leave back cherished memories of our existence here.

References

1. James 4: 24, Holy Bible, New International Version.
2. 1 Peter 1:24, Holy Bible, New International Version