2021 International Essay Contest for Young People [Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

Relight the world

(Original)

Mai Jahad Sha'ban (Age 15, Syria)

Laying on the grass, watching the starry night around me, and the petals of red roses dancing in the gentle breeze that makes the trees whisper to each other, and my feelings move inside my heart and flutter higher with each heartbeat. This makes me feel so alive, makes me want to live to find out more beautiful things in the vast world, and also inside my own soul. To me, every single day represents a new chapter of my story, or... should I say our story? In fairy tales there's always one hero... the hero who saves the day every time on his own, but real life is a different game... nobody lives alone in a secluded world, so _as you see_ life is a story that connects all of us together and makes us love, like, hate, fight and respect each other… A story that takes us to new places, and as long as the road continues I won't give up my dreams and I'll go with it to places I've never seen before.

When I was five years old, the war started in Syria. At first, we thought about war as a fictional thing that will never come true, but only a few months later it all begun to become true. My town was relatively safe, but the whole region around was dangerous, we were literally surrounded and isolated. It was like suicide to get out of the town many times, and the voices of explosions were getting closer every day. Every night I prayed that I'd stay alive until the next morning and I would never lose someone I love... I've always believed that this is coming to an end, but I could never know when or how... and I was not sure if I'd stay alive until then... and finally, after years of horror, we were allowed to live peacefully, and everything was safe again, but our life was different than before... many people died... some of them I used to know, and then I asked myself: Did their aims deserve to sacrifice the lives of all those people for? Were their lives so cheap? And if that was true, is my life cheap, too?... and here I was completely sure that nothing deserves to kill people for. All of them pretended they were doing this for the "greater good", but they just did nothing for us. I mean... how could you help people by harming them? Even if the victims were few, they're human after all, every one of them had his own life, his own

dreams, his own family and friends... every one of them loved someone and was beloved by someone... and they just murdered them and burned everything down.

As a person who suffered from the war, I want to protect those who I love and all the others from this disaster. I'm going to treat people with kindness and love and I know that they will be influenced by this and they will do the same because they will taste its sweetness. I'm sure that I'm not the only one who would do this... although people seem cruel sometimes but there's a tiny flame of love and hope that's waiting to be ignited deep in their hearts...

Let's teach the small kids and the upcoming generations that war is just a flood of blood and corpses... War brings us nothing but destruction and death, and the lonely way to live happily is to let everyone live his life his own way until we can reach an international congregation that allows all the nations to gather and opine in a free way so we can stop any war to happen and relight the feelings of this dark tough world.

Somebody said once that life is just a long dream, if that was true, then I'd make it a beautiful dream and live in it by my own will rather than surrender to outrageous nightmares.