I AM PEACE

(Original)

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It was a strange voice. I never heard anything like that before. First, I thought it was a storm, but in summer how could it be. Then I started to feel my bed shaking and the windows and door too. Maybe it's an earthquake, I thought. But it didn't happen before in my town and geography class, I learned, that it only happens in the rift valley area, where my town isn't located. Then an explosion-like sound is heard. It surrounded the house and I felt the shaking for about five seconds. I was at my grandmother's house and it was only the two of us. She was next to my bedroom. And I heard her saying "It's started!"

My country, Ethiopia, has been in a civil war since November 2019.   Since then we never lived the same. Every day we lived in fear that the war might reach our cities and town. Today, the war is over, but we are in a situation there is no peace and no war. When you have lived in a place that is world acclaimed for its peacefulness, you don't realize how much being able to go out in the morning and do what you want to do and be back home without feeling fear is valuable until you lose that peace you have. But I don't think to know the value of something; we must not wait until we lose it. For me, it was too late to understand how valuable peace can be. And I guess the war was an awakening experience for me. But how many explosions do we need to be awake? How much suffering, and how many lost lives do we need to see, to understand how being in peace is valuable. As human beings, we have seen enough bloodshed, enough wars, and enough suffering, but what did that give us in return; nothing. The lost ones are lost, but we, the remaining still fight as if we can gain something.

So if someone asked me what my values are before, achievement, ambition, ethics and family, and friendship would be my answers. And I believe as human beings we failed to maintain peace because we don't recognize peace as a value. Anywhere in the world now, dispute resolving method is becoming war only. People are starting to think, that the way

they can make their voice heard is only by violence. Peace is now becoming something that we used to have, not we do have. As time passes we are forgetting what it is like to live in peace. My grandmother that night, being so calm, I always thought how she was like that. And I asked her the next day why. She said "Back in my day, we lived in harmony. People were more listening than speaking. We only thought about how to make the world a better place. But as time passed and human beings started to desire more, we started to fail. This generation had it all; the knowledge, the freedom, the sources, yet, the unlimited want they have made them forget they are humans. They lost humanity. See, my son, that's when I know it was only a matter of time for us to lose the peace we never valued when we had the chance."

Peace starts within us. A peaceful person will always promote peace. As a citizen of the world, I hope to create a society whose biggest concern is maintaining peace and will always be willing to promote it whenever and wherever. I want to make a world where I would feel safe enough to have children and not be afraid they might get hurt or lose them. I want the world to be the safest place where anyone can go anywhere and live as anything they want to be. I want to be a peaceful person with a peaceful world. When we are in peace, the world becomes peaceful too. So, let's value peace. Let's be peace.