

## **Entrust in Peace: Simple Acts**

(Original)

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I have met numerous pessimistic people in my life- those who convey peace has ceased to exist. In fact, I have been told a plethora of statements that are righteous to one extent but also despondent of the world we reside in. "Don't believe anyone. Otherwise, you will be deceived". "In this world, no one will come to help you." As a naïve child eight years ago, I would have been oblivious to the contradiction lying on the opposite end of this literary life spectrum. However, I am now enlightened to have strived for hope and peace in the world, rooting for faith. Sometimes, the most unprecedented situations of adversity pave the path for peculiar individuals to trespass your life and make a difference discretely. That, I assert, is my perception of the indefinite void of peace: A society brimming with kindness.

When I was reminded of this prompt, I recalled a life-changing incident that occurred in 2015 when I was boarding a train in New Delhi. Suddenly, I was taken back to the screeching sounds of the train halting on tracks amid the bustling, renowned train station. People running to get on the train first, loved ones rushing to hug their relatives, and the announcers announcing the arrival of the recent train. My mother clutched my hand in her clasps, asking me not to release her hand. Yes, yes, I repeated to myself. I am from America- a foreign country. I am wearing Nike shoes and ripped jeans and a nice blouse. People are dangerous; they would not hesitate to steal from me. I was getting weary of the shoves from hundreds of pushing people behind me. When my laces came undone, I crouched down to fix them. Looking up, I realized my mother was nowhere near my premise. My heart was racing, my backpack was weighing me down as faces blurred in the crowd. Tears streamed. Lost, pushed, fell on knees. Insignificance engulfed me amidst indifferent strangers.

A lady in a blue "Saree" looked down and crouched to lend me a hand." Don't trust her, I instinctively engraved in my mind. She might be dangerous.

"Beta (child), are you all right?" she asked.

Despite my internal denial to share, my voice started quivering, speechless on how to share everything.

"I-I-I'm lost. My mother is somewhere; I cannot find her!"

She asked me where I was going and offered to take me to my mother. I depicted my mother to my utmost ability. As her eyes lit up, I could tell she had picked up on something. We navigated through the maze of people until I found my mother also looking for me in the crowd. I ran to her, relief washing over me. The lady beamed, and my mother thanked her in gratitude.

That day, the horrific incident gave me a voice renewing my loyalty to kindness/peace. As a 14-year girl today, I am aware the scenario is marginal comparative to thousands of struggles today, in some havocked locations. But as a child frail and terrified of the treacherous world illusioned, I take immense pride in having painted a new vision. Today, I live in a world where terrible things do happen, but they are preventable. As a teenager, I use social media daily, seeing individuals share their issues and arising global crises. It has occurred to me, without being cliché, that messages can be spread within blinks. If so, one can send messages to help unknown people through acts of kindness, spread awareness, and gain support.

During COVID-19, I realized vast populations were being decimated within days in rural areas globally. Responsively, I engaged in a collaborative effort to help raise money to supply oxygen concentrators to these resource-scarce locations. Triumphantly, more than \$50,000 were raised, saving innumerable lives, and social media was the promoting platform.

Peace is a multi-faceted notion, branching numerous perceptions- but it embarks on its journey through kindness. The journey that I gained through my experience. I envision a peaceful world where we reside in a society possibly struggling, and another person arrives to offer their shoulder. Entrusting, we pour our faith into a stranger and believe the world will do us good.