

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize]

## **Education System in My Utopia**

(Original)

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Imagine a colossal, frosty swamp that does not have an end. With a pathetic endeavor, you raise your head to see the end. However, it is so powerful that no matter how hard you try to struggle, the swamp swallows you more.

Our world is an insatiable and cruel swamp which is fed and expanded by the pain, poverty, starvation, racism and ignorance. For most of us Utopia is just a fairytale still being told to small kids not to kill the last sources of true innocence. In a world where humans are categorized by their skin colors, languages, religions and money; we still hope that one day, humanity will change.

So, why does it have to be like that? Is there really a chance for us to purify from our lurking savagery and ignorance? I think it is so unnecessary and ill-considered to ask that question. Do you know why? It's because we already know the answer; the keystone. And we name it: education. Education should be the water that put out the ongoing fire. It should enlighten our minds and hearts. And, it should make us love each other. Nevertheless, when I look out, all I see is pain and suffering.

As a teenager, I don't want to live in a world without a future. I don't wish for a too complicated education system. Firstly, stop classifying us by asking for the things that not everyone can do. Start to understand us and try to look more deep inside. Because, somewhere deep inside, we are all blessed with fascinating talents. As Einstein says: 'Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.'

Secondly, stop teaching us the conventional formulas, ideas and systems. Teach us where they are coming from. Teach us the roots of the problems. I shouldn't be memorizing the things you

put in front of me and tell me to memorize for the next exam. What I truly need is to question. Again, as Einstein says: 'Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.' So, don't put barriers on me while I'm questioning why there is a huge rock in the garden. The greatest ideas come out from the simplest questions and thoughts. What I wish to know may not be in our books, but don't stop teaching me by using this as an excuse.

As an individual, I want to be useful to the world. Unlike the song, I don't want to be another brick in the wall. I should paint my own character and world to the empty canvas. I should be the one choosing the colours. Yet, my teachers should be the ones who teach how to draw.

Dear adults, please teach me toleration. Tell me that, colors can compose the harmony of rainbow and do their dance only by uniting. Before telling me that I am not capable of learning a new language, realise the fact that all babies speak the same language when they are born. Nothing is impossible. Teach me the religions. Teach me that they are not things that break us apart. They are there to unite us. And then, let me choose what I believe myself.

Most importantly, before teaching Physics, what we all need to learn is being *human*. If this was taught and engraved in childhood, the discovery of atom wouldn't be a tool to homicide. You should teach that all living things, from the bird soaring in the sky to the worm inside the soil, mean something and must be respected. Teach me that hurting is the most horrifying game of the devil. Rather than taking, giving life is more important. Teach me to donate.

Lastly, before educating us, please educate yourself. Restrain the furious monster inside you. Heal yourself from the illness of destroying. By hiding behind the mask of civilization, stop proliferating guns and technologies to threaten one another. Don't forget that students are sculptures and teachers are the sculptors who give the shape. We learn what we see from you.