

## “Effect of lockdown on Humans, Animals and Environment”

If only we knew,

I would have paid a little more attention in the last class that day,

I would have ate the dinner at the mess that I hate the most back in my hostel,

I would have spent a little more time with my friends,

I would have hugged them tighter before leaving for my home,

I would have played with the puppy out on the road a little longer,

If only we knew, the times that were awaiting us.

And now as I sit, and look back at the old memories,

I realize how we take most of our life for granted,

Not realizing how every single inch of earth we walk upon is nothing but a miracle, and we are nothing but the luckiest ones, to be able to breathe, midst what we've been given.

This lockdown arose love in our hearts, and a sense of respect, for every thing, every being in front of us and made us all realise that what is all around us, is nothing but magic and God resides in no heaven or sky above, but

in the greens of leaves,

blues of oceans,

in the oranges of sunset skies,

the reds of fire,

the violet of wild flowers,

the indigo of our freedom,

that God exists in those rainbows.

The lockdown made the homo sapien stay at home, and some even away from home, all locked up and with nowhere to go. The four walls of his room made him feel like he was in a cage, while the animals, birds, insects and other wildlife walked, crawled and flew freely in the universe, as if the whole universe belonged to them, just like it did some several years ago.

While it was also suffocating to stay indoors, some of us made the most of this quarantine period by helping our families out in the fields, by learning cooking, by gardening in the backyard of our house, by playing all sorts of indoor games and by taking up all those tasks which we never thought we could do. This quarantine brought us closer to our families and made us realize that it is only the FAMILY that sticks around in the times of difficulty and no one else.

Although we are a little sad, but while in this lockdown period, when there is no movement outdoors, it looks as if the nature is healing in its own ways. We watch it recover slowly day by day, with rainbows appearing every now and then and like a ray of hope, they make us smile and feel happy that at least something is right. And that even if we end up perishing with the virus, at least we will be dying while looking at how beautiful this Earth can be.

This lockdown also brought a feeling of unity and respect among the citizens as on April 5, all the Indians lit candles and diyas at 9p.m for 9 minutes and with the lighting of these candles and diyas, we ignited hope in our hearts, to help us move ahead with positivity through this darkness and be united in our fight against this pandemic.

I know that it'll all be back to normal, and the air won't be as clean as it is today. It will all be destroyed the moment this lockdown is over. But let's be thankful that we can stare outside our windows, and watch the nature unveil its secrets, watch the colours changing in the skies, watch the mountains glow, birds chirp, and understand that it has always been there, the gift of nature is always with us and not far away in some secluded place, because this is a chance, a rare chance to see beyond our usual bubbles, into how far we've destroyed our surroundings, and how quickly nature can turn the tables on us. And then, once you realize, be thankful. Be thankful for the magic of universe.

And by the time all this is over, I know you'll be a different person, more beautiful, more mature, more caring. A person at peace with themselves, a person who knows the world around him better.

And I know you'll spend more time with you family,

Do some more phone calls to your friends every week,

You'll stop by that intersection from where you can see blue skies and the clouds floating in it. You'll appreciate that flower growing at the corner of the building. You'll thank God for all the colours, for rains, for sun, for all the beauty that surrounds you,

And I know you'll walk more, you'll run, you'll do everything to let that air touch your skin, and sun kiss your face, and you'll smile more at strangers, party more with your neighbors, and on Saturdays, you might stay at home to cook a new dish and share it with your beloved ones.

Because I don't know when this will end, but by the time it does, I do know that you'll be a different person.

This lockdown made us all believe that maybe there is a God out there, looking at us, smiling at our daily worries, at our anxieties, at our fear, at you, at me, while slowly going on with its work, asking us to be

patient, asking us to believe, asking us to look at the sun, at the way it shines through the crops that grew over time, and asking us to question, if that's not a miracle, then what is, for a seed to turn into a life source, asking us to know that maybe we don't realize everything, maybe we are still not intelligent beings, asking us to accept that there's more to this universe, to our lives, to our destiny that we think we know, asking us to maybe stop, and stare far away, looking at the world beyond ours, and believe, that in this universe, every prayer is heard. Or maybe the God is nothing but time, and time is as alive as us, charting the path for us, helping us move ahead, and then slowly whispering in our ears to be patient, for you know what, God/Time will heal you.

During the lockdown, we, the people of this country realized that it's not the multinational companies, but the farmer, the poor farmer, who is keeping us alive today in the time of crisis, we realized that maybe the Doctor uncle in our neighbourhood is not as arrogant as he looks as we see him go to work each day, we realized that we never realized how beautiful a place we were living in, we realized that it's important to spend some time with our families other than your friends, we became strong and patient and realized that there is always a rainbow behind that rain and there's always good times beyond that pain.

So just be patient for the good old days to come back and trust me when I say:

तुम देखना

वो दिन फिर आएँगे

और शायद इस बार

और भी खूबसूरत बनकर।