

A Foot Too Deep

A footprint; unmatched and unique while being parallel with its own existence. On the new sidewalk that is being built in my neighborhood, it appears that my neighbor stepped on it with her heels clicking the bare ground while the cement was moist. At the horrific sight of this footprint, I, the generation of year 2050, have a teardrop fall out of my eyes. I shut my eyes to remember the luscious green grass that shone under the bright sun and the beautiful blue sky with shades of purple and orange during sunrise. If only my fingers could paint my thoughts, I would fill the black and white world with colour. My eyes open and see a letter on the hard earth beneath me and it reads;

"Mother Earth's moisture is allowing our feet to sink deeper and deeper into the depths of despair leaving an imprint of our footprint on the earth beneath us. The deeper our foot sinks, we let it go further because we fathom the experience of something new but something new is not always something good but rather a threat to the future generations to come. Our foot has sunk so low that our CO2 emissions from cars and consumption of non-renewable resources has depleted the existence of polar bears in Greenland and Alaska."

Memories of my trip to the Beaufort Sea race in my mind. I remember running away from the massive polar bears despite the fact that they were harmless beings. Scientists had come up north to conduct research. They established that the arctic ice was thinning at an exponential rate and knew that the polar bears would not be able to adapt to this change thus, created proposals to receive subsidies for the research as it required expensive technological gadgets. Unfortunately, failure to convince enough supporters that this was a priority resulted in a decline in the population of polar bears.

"We have already entrenched the fact that the global temperature is increasing and acidic oceans have affected the population of marine sub-species however, our footprint has increased the concentration of carbon in nutritious plants which has also decreased the amount of minerals and nutrients that human bodies can extract from the plant"

In the summer of 2009, I saw families rushing into apple orchards, vegetable patches, and several others farms to collect their grains and vegetables. On a trip to the local farm, the grade 12 biology teachers insisted that everyone should reduce, reuse and recycle for it has a positive externality on the environment, meanwhile, the science students' rationale behind throwing things in the garbage instead was either "Who cares? It's just one item!" or "Carbon helps plants grow so it must be okay to throw it out" Ultimately, crop growth went up by 15% when carbon concentrations increased by 50%, however the amount of protein proportionate to the crop dropped by 5%-14% in rice, wheat and potatoes. Being a culprit of witnessing this and not doing anything made me burn with guilt.

"Some of these impacts cannot be undone. Nonetheless, we can reduce the carbon emissions in the world by taking small steps. Think twice about where you're putting your waste"

and where it should go. Take an extra 10 minutes to walk to school instead of getting a car ride. Buy local produce so we don't emit pollutants during transportation. Don't let your foot sink any deeper now because once the moist cement of Earth hardens, it will be too late to take your foot out."

These words hit me with a hard realization that I can't swallow. I must warn my friends, 2016 and 2017 that they must change their actions, laws, habits and life to align with and personify environmental friendliness.

"But, my dear child, abolish our footprint and make your mark! Let carbon be an element on your periodic table and influence your generation such that carbon emissions go from your science textbooks to those of history. When I was your age, we all thought, what difference can 1 person make amongst a world of more than 7 billion but just remember that a world of 7 billion started with only 1. Do not allow laziness to engulf you in its possession for the state of your own future is at your discretion."

In the mid 1900's, children imagined the world to be filled with shades of gray as films had a mixture of only black and white. If we continue our current practices and leave our footprint behind with our feet sunken deep into the layer of moist cement, the unfortunate imagination of shades of gray may become a reality after which, we may never get the chance to fill it back with colour. Take this time, wherever, whenever and with whoever to do whatever it takes to match each other and bring back the colour to life for me, 2050. If we start caring, the world will be cured by itself.