

An Everyday Choice

The wind tastes every single drop of my skin as I feel powerless. I close my innocent eyes, hiding them from reality. I keep them locked inside my brain with my warm thoughts, avoiding the coldness of the bitter truth of the outside. I am nothing but a liar to myself. My childish eyes haven't seen the real world.

Still, I am only one out of many who have blinded their eyes with a thick layer of lies. Is this what creates peace in my head, comforting me from the horror stories of the real world? Does peace mean lying to myself, seeing only the things I want to see?

One day, I observe the cruelty and feel the sensation of hunger invading the man sitting outside the store in his torn, dirty clothes. He holds with his wrinkled hands a sign that begs for money. The woman with her Louis Vuitton bag, Valentino dress and gold necklace, which surrounds her long neck, gives the only dirty thing she owns—a look. In a peaceful world, he would have a bright, clean white shirt with a home, without having to depend on anyone's pity coins.

I begin to search and open my brain. At the very bottom, I find my memory of Irma. When I was so close to losing everything to the irritated, vast ocean and rushing winds, I remember simply not caring. Not about my bedroom, computer, television or anything. I only cared about the people attached to me. Does this mean everything I own is worthless to me?

Not exactly. Perhaps all I really need is a small box with a journal and some books. I am not attached to anything, so nothing can hold me back. I have peace inside of me, so I will always be okay—unlike my mother, who drowned herself in tears saying, “All of our things are

going to be ruined!” As I closed the door to our apartment, I waved a goodbye without knowing if we would ever see it again. We lived one block away from the beach. Everything was supposed to be destroyed, and I had chosen to have peace with it.

This is when I realized that peace is a choice, waiting for you to believe in it. It is not possessions, or fooling yourself by denying reality. Peace is making the best out of bad situations, whether they are a result of nature or other circumstances. If peace nowadays can't be found, why not create it within yourself?