

Catamorphosis

By: Tanvi Rakesh

If you could have any one wish granted, what would you wish for? One part of me would wish that the past year never happened, while another part of me would be grateful for the same. This is because I have learned so much and grown as a person while we were in lockdown. For me, this year has been a catamorphosis - a mix between a catastrophe and a metamorphosis. The struggle for racial equality, environmental disasters, lack of humanity, and the Covid-19 pandemic has certainly been a catastrophe. But through all of these challenges, we are also in a metamorphosis - growing and changing as we learn to appreciate the simple things in life.

One of the biggest factors that has brought about a change is the Covid-19 pandemic. It has impacted everyone in some way or another. Families across the globe have lost their jobs, struggled to find food, and lived in isolation for more than a year now. The pandemic has led us to ask ourselves the question: what is most important in life? This year of isolation has truly been a struggle. The endless hours of solitude with only our phones to keep us company has helped us appreciate the little things in life and reminded us that there is beauty in every situation. I have realized what a blessing it is for me to have food, shelter and an education during these circumstances.

Another tragic event that occurred has been the struggle for racial justice and the coming together of people to support a cause they are passionate about. In May 2020, a black man named George Floyd was murdered by a white police officer because of his race. This event sparked a series of protests led by the Black Lives Matter movement and has brought together the people of our nation in a way like no other. We have learned how important it is to speak up for what we believe in and find strength in unity.

The BLM movement inspired me to bring about change in my community by furthering my own initiative, The Giving Tree. This is a nonprofit founded by my sister and me to help underprivileged children receive an education and acquire basic necessities. We conducted an online fundraiser during the pandemic and used the funds to purchase laptops for underprivileged youth. It was a joy to step out of my comfort zone to do this as many children were struggling to continue their education virtually.

Like a caterpillar in its chrysalis, we are currently in the dark. This year has definitely had its ups and downs, but it has truly been a catamorphosis. Throughout all the change and the struggles - our community, our world, and each and every one of us have grown as people. In the end, we will come out of this stronger than ever and spread our wings, like the beautiful butterfly which emerges from its chrysalis and takes flight.

