

SPEECH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEANLINESS

Imagine feeling the warmth of the sun on your skin, as you place your feet in cool waters. You look up to see clear blue skies and all around you, there exists an endless beige, of velvet sands and an atmosphere of pure joy. That's how I'd imagined it—a trip to the beach. Yet, I didn't get that. Would you like to know why?

Spotless, clear, cleansed, scrubbed— these are words we use to describe something clean. That's what cleanliness, in a general sense is. A person is neat and clean, when they're well-dressed and well-groomed, while an area is clean when dirt, plastic, and other materials aren't strewn around. Anything clean attracts a person. It's as simple as that.

So, a few weeks ago, when I'd planned a trip to the beach with my friends, I was SO excited! It'd been ages since we'd made plans, and frankly, it was long overdue. "It's a beach, what could go wrong?" is what I'd thought to myself. Little did I know...

The day finally arrived, and there it was. I could see the beach from a distance. It looked just like I'd imagined it. We quickly removed our shoes, and placed our feet into the sand, when all of a sudden, I felt like my right foot hadn't quite sunk into the sand, like my left one. I looked down and found a banana peel caught between my toes. That really sucked all the excitement out. I looked around and found plastic bottles, polythene bags, tin cans, paper plates, peelings, pieces of cloth—the list could go on. When did something so beautiful become tampered with? And who's responsible?

Even as we came closer to the waters, I could see remnants of garbage floating by, and suddenly, the beach just wasn't as appealing anymore. With this late, yet sudden realisation, I couldn't look at anything the same way. There's garbage all around us. And, we've perhaps gotten so accustomed to it, that the heap of garbage on the corner of our street will just happen to stay and remain that way.

Cleanliness- a term so multidimensional, that it invades every aspect of our lives. Some may even say that it's a state of mind which translates onto our day-to-day activities. Yet, a fleeting thought- if we're all so familiar with what cleanliness entails and how inculcating it improves our quality of life, why are we STILL in a position where it's the need of the hour? How do we fix this?

They say charity begins at home, and that's where we begin. A simple reorganising of your closet, or room is a great start. Of course, it doesn't end there. Start with your area of residence, make note of the kind of garbage disposal and recycling it uses, stay informed, and inform others, as well.

You see, it's very easy to pin the blame on others for 'not doing their job' when it comes to an unclean environment. But, what if, we're somehow the root cause? Are we doing EVERYTHING we possibly can to make a difference?

I started my speech by asking you to 'imagine' and envision something we've once had, and no more do. We've somehow found ourselves in a situation where the real has turned into the unreal, instead of it being the other way around.

I started my speech by asking you to 'imagine', as that, unfortunately, is the only place you'd find bliss, so taintless and untouched.

I started my speech by asking you to 'imagine', and I now end it with a sincere request. The time to do our bit starts from NOW. Every action counts. We owe it to our planet, society, and ourselves. Thank you for listening.