Close your eyes for just a minute. Imagine a forest. What do you want to see? I would like to see the trees standing tall and full of life, reaching their branches to greet you, while in the background deer sip water from the river streaming down through the endless land of dreams. Now open them. What do you see now? Trees are either dead or barely alive, grasping for nutrients that are nonexistent. The once energetic deer are now piles of lifeless bones, waiting to be decomposed. The riverbank, which was once a source of life, is now a sign of misfortune because of the dry desert it has now become. No matter how much we try to push the truth back, it is inevitable that our actions will come to bite us back. It is obvious that we are doing something wrong.

Remember the sky-blue birds that once roamed the parks and sang their songs innocently? Remember the fresh pristine air we once took for granted? Remember the rivers we swam in as if we were the ones who created them? Look at them now. They're either polluted, endangered or completely gone. How’s all our knowledge being used? Poisoning this loving earth even more?

This isn't a theory. We have proof! Scientists all over the world have seen our actions. They've done all the tests and seen all the possibilities and what they've seen isn’t a fairy tale. In 2050, if we continue our current path, it is predicted that all the trees in the world will be cut down and all of India will be polluted and sea levels will rise by 1 meter, resulting in Bangladesh to be completely submerged in the water.

My grandfather, who was a fisherman, worked day and night to make ends meet. To make my mother and her siblings have a bright future. What if he saw this horrid future. Fish lying on their back in the greasy seas. This is not a book, nor a movie. This isn't when God dies nor when the sun explodes. This is now and now is the time to act.

It isn't hard to make a big difference in changing our world. If we at least take one of these simple steps, we can make a better world for everyone. The first thing we should implement in our lives are real utensils. By this I mean we should stop using single-use plastic and start bringing our owns cutlery. This change would greatly benefit us, as it would lower the carbon emissions produced when plastic is made. We can also start planting more plants. These don't have to be too expensive, just seed from fruits. Lastly, I’m sure we can all minimize the usage of water by taking showers that are less than 4 minutes.

If we put in an effort, I'm sure we can all make an impact for the better and we can revive our once lush environment and bring back the singing birds and the river of dreams. If my grandfather were here today watching us make this effort, he would be more than proud of what we've accomplished today. I plead to you one last time that we all try to bring back what we take for granted and don't further dig our own graves.