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Filled, Yet Not Satisfied

For me, looking up at the night sky is one of the most exciting experiences to have. I look up, and I cannot help from smiling. My nightly obsession with the sky mostly began because of the website, YouTube. I watch a lot of YouTube, and while many of the videos on the website include random tutorials and dancing animals, I have discovered people that in their own special ways have Virgil-y affected me. Hank Green, one of my favorite YouTubers, is one of these people. He posts videos each Friday in response to his brother's Tuesday videos. A few years ago, Hank shouted in a video about the concept of the universe having *no edge*. Soon after seeing this video, a friend of mine, who shares my love for Hank, in a card wrote, "The universe has no edge, gosh darn it! How could anything be impossible?" Ever since I read this card, watched the video, and bought the poster, I have been in awe. What!! NO EDGE. The idea of things with no edge, with no tangible or solid end, just confounds me. The whole concept, in the most amazing way, defies logic! I routinely look up at the vast, night sky because I want to fathom it all, but I just cannot do it. However, that is the fun part. The fact that I cannot explain the very space that I stand inside, that I call home, is exciting. The space is limitless and there is no proof that it is not, and so I believe we may be limitless too. And as hokey as it might sound, to me this means that for me, and for all of us, there are endless possibilities.

This idea is important to me because, like I think a lot of people do, throughout my life I have tended to look at myself in limited terms. This has never happened because someone told me I was not good enough, rather I have forced these finite capacities onto myself. Ever since I can remember, I have struggled to have strong faith in myself. I think it is because I do not have

a positive control over the dialogue of thoughts within my mind. I overthink so much of what I do, and overthinking, in my case, causes nervousness. These nerves in most situations maintain themselves within the confines of my head, but in high pressure situations, like sports matches, I find my body constricting and stiffening into a tight, metal beam. At times, the inner dialogue within my head begins to spin, and I am unable to form any cohesive thoughts. In those cases, it feels like the next Ice Age has spontaneously begun, and wherever I am standing is the one place nature has decided to most intensely freeze.

But when I remind myself that there is no edge, I am able to stop overthinking and find faith in myself. It is in these moments that I truly believe that I *can* have those endless possibilities. I am able to see that all choices and possible results are in front of me, and I can order and enjoy them.

At the top of Mount Purgatory, Virgil asks Dante to, “Look at the sun that shines upon your brow, / look at the grasses, flowers, and the shrubs / born here, spontaneously, of the earth” (27, 133-135). These are some of the last lines that Virgil sings to Dante, and, to me, it is him pleading that Dante see how far he has come and appreciate all of the opportunities he now has. Virgil is asking Dante to “look” because he not only wants Dante to see what is in front of him, but also to enjoy it. I believe that Virgil thinks that there is no edge to the universe for Dante. Virgil’s words are similar to a praise which, to me, shows that Virgil is encouraging Dante to be more comfortable and secure within himself. While I read these lines, I felt encouraged to support myself and to be proud of the distance I have climbed.

In the same scene, Virgil continues by encouraging Dante to further embrace what he has achieved by offering, “...you can rest or walk until / the coming of the glad and lovely eyes...” (27, 136-137). To me, this moment truly shows how wise Virgil is. Even though we can assume

that Dante is tired, I feel like he is also scared to stop and enjoy himself because he has been so focused on climbing. However, Virgil knows that recognizing Dante's accomplishments is just as important to Dante's growth. I feel like this advice, that it is OK to stop sometimes and embrace what is around you, is what I let myself do with the night sky and what I need to let myself do more often. Stopping time and allowing yourself to play seems to be the cure for an overactive mind and an unsupportive inner dialogue, but now I need to learn how to be consistently at peace with myself.

Recently, we read and listened to "Tangled Up Puppet" by Harry Chapin. In this song, the narrator, a father, describes the loss he feels for his daughter as she has grown and worked to depend less on him. Near the end of this song, Chapin sings this verse:

Now you write your secret poems
 In a room just for your dreams
 You don't find time to talk to me
 About the things you mean. (Chapin)

Over the years, at times I have felt myself resisting the care of my father, and I think it is a result of my insecure inner dialogue. I think that we all have the decision to be comfortable with ourselves, and when we decide to not be comfortable with where we are in life and who we are, we begin to overthink and do things that we believe others expect us to do. To be honest, I have fallen into this trap, and it has forced me to momentarily lose sight of my values.

I am working to create a more self-supportive inner dialogue because I want to have *no edge*. I want to find peace within myself because I believe that it is only then that I will be able to discover endless possibilities. To begin, I have a few ideas that I would like to continue and improve on:

1. Reflect
2. Support others
3. Read
4. Look up at the sky each night
- 5.
- 6.

Works Cited:

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