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Quarantine period through the eyes of an eight year old child.



It all started on the 18th of May 2020, Arya a boy aged

8 years old, woke up startled from a nightmare. He dreamt that he will never be able to go to school again. Arya, that little boy was so eager to go back to school, study and play with his friends during recess time. He sat by the window and looked outside. It was a bright sunny day and yet all the streets where he lived was deserted as if it was warning Class 3 of a strong cyclone; but this time, it was worse than a cyclone! Arya **closed his eyes** and started thinking about how the happiness of each and everyone around the world turned out into this horrible nightmare!

Arya clearly remembers that day. It was the 18th of March 2020, it was recess time and he was playing happily with his friends in the school yard. His day went well as he was not yet aware of the upcoming situation. At night, he was doing his homework and his mum came in his bedroom and said "Tomorrow there will be no school." "No school! No school!" he shouted happily until his mother said "Arya, listen to me very well. Calm down. Arya! Do not be so happy, my child! You are not going to school because there is this Monster known as Covid 19 which is making people sick and killing them around the whole world. As far as school is concerned, we do not know yet when school will resume." In one blink of an eye, everything had just changed. Arya was so surprised, sad and felt guilty at the same time. "Oh Mother! I am so sorry. I should not have behaved like this...Sorry Mother! I will pray to God to bless, protect and cure everyone and everything will be back to normal." Arya replied. "Good job, Arya! I appreciate your kindness and...see, God will definitely answer your prayers!" his mother answered.

Months went by, many people were getting infected and died. Arya was so sad after watching the news; but, he did not lose hope. Every day, he was praying for the wellbeing of the world and would apply the safety rules such as to keep washing the hands properly for a good twenty seconds,

applying hand sanitizer and also not going out during this quarantine period. He believed that these safety precautions would keep everyone well-guarded from this monster, Covid 19.

Arya had not seen his father for days as his father was a doctor who was treating patients in the hospital in Vacoas. He was watching the news and press conferences and kept thinking about the people who were suffering and also about his father. He was so happy and so proud of his father who was selflessly helping people to get well. Arya also got so inspired to become a doctor in the future, just like his father. His mother kept consoling him and advised him to keep up with this school work to be able to become a good doctor. Every day, Arya was watching the daily educational programmes on television and kept in touch with his school work. His aunt who was a teacher would volunteer to tutor him and other students of his age through video calls from time to time as additional help. Arya was able to get a clearer guidance about some abstract chapters in Mathematics and also some concepts of Science.

During this quarantine period, Arya discovered his hidden talents such as his creativity through drawing, cooking and dancing. Every day, Arya would dance to his favourite Sega which is "Kalasemia" and also the new one "Nou pa peur twa Corona" to keep himself fit and entertained at the same time. After that, he would help his mother with the household chores and also in the kitchen. Arya would come up with a new exciting and delicious dish every day with the help of videos on You Tube and his mother would congratulate him for his efforts and great culinary skills which he had inherited from his paternal grandfather, who was a great Chef in a restaurant of his own. Added to that, Arya would make colourful, attractive and interesting drawings based on the Covid 19 and his mother would share his drawings with the MBC. His mother was so proud of his efforts. She was happy with her son as he thought differently and was so mature for a child of his age.

Arya **opened his eyes** and reflected on how he grew as a person throughout this quarantine. God had been answering to his prayers. The proof is now crystal clear, people are getting cured and the death rate has also decreased; but, we should keep following the safety precautions. Arya felt so relieved and prayed for everyone to be safe from this monster from now on. Everyone went through a lot and now it's the time to relax and focus on the positive things and be thankful that things are changing towards a better future with a Covid 19- Free environment which is secure and conducive for everyone.