

2nd Report

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Honestly I feel surprised to get to know that it is already time to write my second report since it means my stay here in India is just about half time! I will be in this place for as long as I have been here. What a strange thought.

But time is just a measurement. It doesn't tell anything about the contents and happenings that occurred during its frame. I guess that is the reason why we are supposed to write a report.

Trying to live in the moment is a very big challenge here at times. Sometimes I perfectly manage to do so when I suddenly get a call from Germany and someone on the end of the line tells me about events in my town, politics or starts talking about my future.

It is then when I feel torn between two worlds very much in the inside.

What will come after India? Where will I go? What will I be doing?

While I am here and work in Aikiyam School with the amazing children I often forget about these questions. At the same time though I am asking myself if I could imagine becoming a teacher like all my other colleagues are. So as well as directly and indirectly I am concerned with this topic all the time, let it be conscious or unconscious. The more time goes by, the more I find myself thinking of it and then trying to push it away from me. The more I do that, the less I am happy about it. Eventually I find myself being caught up by my own future.

In advance, before coming to India I knew that at some point in life I could not continue ignoring some dead lines for turning in applications and therefore making decisions. Definitely it is not the first time in my life that I have to find out what I really want or what is most important to me. And usually I am very certain about it. The difficulty to plan my future from here evolves on the one hand from some technical problems that don't make research on facts of possibilities an easy thing to do and on the other hand from the completely different cultural scene and experience I am in right now. How can I know now what is best for me in 8 months? I can only be in one place in the moment.

This inner conflict is an issue of the past weeks within me and I am aware that I am not the only one struggling. I've realized that even if I knew all the facts or if I make a choice now, life can always lead me into another direction than I thought I'd be heading towards to.

Recently I was talking to a friend and we realized that we already have a past in India. Again I felt pretty much amazed. Indeed I feel like the weeks are followed rapidly by the next. That is because every single day is so different and enriching in its own ways. So let me tell you about some of the numerous high lights from the 'past'.

I was prepared for Christmas to be different this year, but never expected me to fall sick on Christmas Eve and not to recover before New Years Eve. During that time I got some visit by my family and after a few days we all even got some more visit. A cyclone which turned out to be the strongest and most destroying one since 40 years stopped by and stayed for a

whole night and a little longer... From that time on there was no longer any flowing water for taking a shower, washing the dishes or washing hands. Reason for that was the cut down of power lines caused by fallen trees. Without electricity there is no way of the water being pumped into the tank on the beautiful rooftop. In the night of the cyclone we wept the flooded floor with some soaking towel until we could see the sun rising. The next night didn't turn out to be more restful... An earthquake warning which later turned out to be a rumor scared us and made us running out of bed in the middle of the night again.

This experience is definitely an unforgettable one. I felt how the force of nature is so much stronger than human's force whatever we try to do. While being sick I got to know what it feels like to be stuck in a catastrophe and not to know where to get drinking water from or where to take the next shower. I am very thankful for having experienced it. It made me more conscious again in using water and not to take it for granted at all. The storm, like the Hindu God Shiva, destroyed a lot of things like living places and harvests, but at the same time made space for new developing. And this happened right before the new year was entering.

Slowly everyone recovered from the shock caused by the unpredicted heaviness of the cyclone and its consequences. In some cases sooner, in others later - after one month everyone used electricity again. The period after the storm 'Thane' could officially be called 'candle light time'. Lots of houses are still broken and not fixed yet, not to speak of the huge amount of trees that fell. Unfortunately our mango tree in front of the apartment was affected, too. There won't be any fruits this summer. There will be less shadow everywhere in and around Auroville. It's going to be a hot summer!

In my working place there were also big tree damages and fixings on buildings to be done. Due to great team work of the school staff we could go back to normal very soon. Since October the 2nd and 3rd standard had been working together on their project on SEA CREATURES. Learning and teaching about the oceans in general and 10 certain sea creatures the children picked I consider it as a very enriching process for me personally. A teacher is a learner. In February we finally set up our project presentation with a fun program. Included was a fashion show, a puppet show, songs and a drama written by the children that I directed together with one of the third grade teachers. We both even took part in it and had fun acting with the students. Having worked so hard towards it (in Tamil speed and ways) and having put all the energy you got into this project I felt so happy and proud, not to say touched, when it was accomplished and when positive feedback was assured.

Closing my report for now, I want to mention how grateful I am to be at this place, for the people I meet, for the experiences that will shape me for the rest of my life. I feel this is a place where humanity is being talked about and often times being practiced. I guess that is a thing that I will miss when I have to leave. But let's see.