

“This I Believe, This I Know”

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I believe in the power of perspective. Over the past year, I have become increasingly aware of how where we are looking from affects what we see. We all have pasts full of experiences and emotions and opinions that have been shaped and molded and those aspects of our identity affect how we respond to, well, everything. Our individual perspectives may seem like narrow windows that trap us, leaving us blind to the outlooks of others. An idealistic response to such a problem would be a call to broaden our perceptions, to destroy the windows that gave rise to our opinions and biases. However, I believe that it is impossible to purify our world of bias, for uniqueness is what allows our societies to function. Variation is what makes interactions with others beautiful and exciting and yes, challenging. So when we think about all the problems that arise from this difference, we must remember that it is also the root of all the ingenuity that has allowed human kind to flourish. We all approach reality from completely different angles, rationalizing, generalizing, and analyzing from a unique point on a broad map of experiences, and it is only when perspectives cross that something interesting occurs. It may be dangerous or damaging, but it may also be the solution of global warming or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. So as we enter our new world of possibility, in both experiences and ideas, this I know: by embracing the differences in where we come from, we design our best collective idea of where to go.