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Potions

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Invisible Killer in the Ocean: Plastics

Imagine that one day in the future, the living things in the ocean will be replaced by plastics. What a terrible thing! Marine plastic pollution has become a global environmental problem. Due to the low density of plastic waste, it is easy to carry out long-distance floating on the water. There is almost no place on the surface of the ocean without plastic pollutants (Jambeck 770). Unfortunately, the chemicals in the plastics are ingested by organisms and passed on to humans through the food chain. Jambeck predicts that with current policies and per capita waste generation, the volume of plastics entering the sea will double by 2025 (768). Marine plastic pollution has a negative impact on the marine environment, but we can largely solve the plastic problem in the ocean by increasing the recycling and centralized treatment of plastic waste, and reducing the production of plastic products.

Through the establishment of plastic waste recycling stations and centralized treatment plants, we can prevent plastic particles from directly entering the marine environment. One study emphasized the efforts of contemporary academic circles to develop new methods to recover some of the most abundant plastics. Through their efforts, they were able to recover dangerous compounds such as polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, and polypropylene in various forms. This proves that some chemical methods are effective in the recovery of both hydrolysable and non-hydrolysable plastics (Zimmer and Smith 1360). The leading role of the government and other relevant departments is a strong guarantee for the above measures. As an example of efforts to reduce plastic waste, South Korea recently opened a “waste mart” to exchange recyclable plastic with commodities to solve the problem of plastic packaging waste, which has achieved good results (Jang et al. 134). Besides controlling the dumping of plastics, the other fundamental effort should be to reduce plastic production.

There will be a significant improvement to our world-wide plastic problem if we limit the production of plastic products straight from the source. At present, many places have upgraded the plastic restriction order, but has been limited to the use and sale of plastic shopping bags (Jambeck 771). Since the introduction of plastic restriction regulations in Seoul in 2013, the public has paid more attention to plastic pollution and understood the impact of plastic waste on the marine environment to a large extent. The actions of different sectors of society have contributed to a top-down approach, which can not only be used as a model to prevent plastic pollution, but also be used to solve other urgent environmental problems (Jang et al. 140). Basically, there is no plastic pollution without the production of plastic. Zimmer and Smith further point out that the production of plastics is directly related to the demand for plastics (1359). This will mean that a paradigm shift needs to take place in order to transition cultures dependent on plastic to become less dependent. The process will be slow, but steps can and should be made in that direction to set us on the right trajectory leading to less waste and pollution.

It is urgent to solve the problem of marine plastic pollution. The pollution caused by plastic seriously affects marine life and the ecosystem. The centralized recovery and treatment of domestic plastic wastes, and the control of the production of plastic products are the practical solutions to solve the problem of marine plastics. Perhaps all that is needed is an effective awakening to take place among the consumers of plastic (Zimmer and Smith 1348). The implementation of these plans, to a large extent, can be an effective way to awaken the public's awareness of plastic pollution, so as to better protect the environment.

Works Cited

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