“I want so much that is not here, and I don’t know where to go” – Charles Bukowski.

In this world where we are constantly bombarded with details about other peoples’ lives and success stories, it’s easy to often feel lost and like you’re always trying to find something that isn’t there. Even though people may look at you as someone with a degree and a decent job who seems to have it all figured out, you can still feel like there’s something missing, something you’ll never find. You may have the dream job, the dream car, good friends and a few hobbies you enjoy and yet a 1000-piece puzzle is still incomplete when only 999 pieces are used. And that one piece that’s missing, is the one piece you feel you need for everything to be okay. But no matter how hard you search, you can’t seem to find it.

What I’ve come to realise, is that it’s okay to feel this way; to feel lost. But we shouldn’t let this feeling distract from what we want to achieve in our lives, whether it be academically, professionally, romantically or otherwise. Every new day provides us with another 24 hours to take a step towards where we want to be, regardless of how big or small that step may be. Some days, we may not even take that step, or we may even take a few steps backwards, and that’s okay. In a time where everything is available to us almost immediately, we may forget that things actually take time; it takes time to get a degree, it takes time to build yourself up to where you want to be in your career and it takes time to find a person to fall in love and build a lasting relationship with.

Sometimes, while pursuing our dreams, we may stumble, or even fall. But as Thomas Wayne said, we fall so that we can learn to pick ourselves up again. And that’s the most important part; learning to pick ourselves up again, no matter how hard it may be. You failed a test? Study harder or get help for the next one. A project at work wasn’t as impressive as you had hoped it would be? Work harder on the next one. You lost someone who you hoped would be in your life forever? Cry your eyes out, dry them and then get back on your feet.

Recently, I’ve been trying to shift my mindset from thinking that I’m lost, to thinking that I’m not lost, but rather that I’m *on my way,* on my way to where I want to be, to who I want to be. I’m trying to apply this mindset to every facet of my life because then I get to think that everything I’ve gone through, everything that I’m going through and will ever go through, is just part of the journey I’m on. And I think the journey is just as beautiful as the destination. All the failed tests, missed deadlines, heartbreaks, scraped knees, tears were all part of this beautiful journey that lead me to where I am today, and will lead me to where I want to be one day, to who I want to be.

Sometimes we may not even know where we want to be or what we want our lives to be like. Lately I have been trying to figure out which is worse, not knowing what you want out of life, or knowing exactly what it is you want and not having it. But maybe the worst feeling is knowing what you want but also knowing that you’ll never be able to have it. And although this is the situation I find myself in, I can’t help but hold onto this belief that I’m on my way and hope that one day I will wake up with everything I wanted, or better yet, everything I needed, and I will look back on these days not with a sore, empty heart but rather feeling full and content with my life. The best we can do is to remember to live, to take each day as it comes and to appreciate each moment to the fullest, even the bad ones. And though we should never lose sight of our dreams, we shouldn’t be disheartened when things turn out differently than we hoped. Because as J.K Rowling once wrote, *it does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live.*

Someone very important to me told me that no matter what I’m going through it’s important to constantly remind myself that I can get through it, that I’ll be okay. And though I haven’t felt okay in a long time, her words gave me the jumpstart I needed to get out of the slump I found myself in. So lately I have been trying to keep a positive mindset and keep myself busy doing anything with people who mean something, even if the one who means the most can’t be around anymore.

And although I am still just a kid from the streets of Newclare trying to figure out exactly what my place in this crazy world is, it’s a lot more comforting to think that I’m on my way to figuring it all out, as opposed to thinking that I’m lost. And if anything, that’s the lesson I want you to take away from this: That, whenever you’re faced with any challenge in your life and it feels like the world is crumbling around you and you’re so lost that you don’t even know which way to go, you take a second to remind yourself that everything that’s happening to you is just part of the journey and that you’re not actually lost; you’re just on your way.

Yours Truly

Mohamed Zayyan Variawa