***Changes are not for everyone***

Environment,Nature,Sustainable development,Growth

“So please, Aram, tell me some more about yourself” asked the interviewer. He was a nice-looking man with glasses and a very expensive-looking suit. “Well, I live together with my wife Monique, and we like to travel together. We like to hike and be outside and visit places you don’t normally go” answers Aram in a very confident way. They small talked for a while and Aram answered some more advanced questions about his education and motivation to work for the company. Aram was trying to get a job at a small but very important factory where they design and build motors for electric cars and other types of transportation. Monique had taken the day off from work to be with Aram and support him. She was waiting by their car when he suddenly appeared in the parking lot, with a paper in his hand and a big smile on his lips. “Finally, I get to be a part of the war against climate change, I feel like I can finally make a difference just like you” Aram told enthusiastic. Monique worked for a firm that specialises in solar power and had made a lot of money by selling their technology to other companies to make them more climate friendly.

They live together in a terraced house in a suburb to Paris. The year is 2062 and the climate is better than ever before. All the European countries put up a lot of money to fight the climate changes and it has made a big impact on their lives. Aram and Monique went to inner Paris to celebrate the new path of their lives. They took a walk around the Eiffel tower and talked about where they wanted to travel next time. It was getting late, and they walked back to their car to go home. “What is that on our porch?” Monique asked confused, while driving into their driveway. It was evening and the only light came from the car and a lamppost on the pavement next to the road. Aram stepped out of the car while holding his phone as a flashlight in one hand, and his suitcase from work in the other hand as defence. He was shaking a bit because he was afraid and didn’t knew what it was. His first thought was that it was a stray dog, but as he got closer, he realised that it wasn’t. It looked like a big pile of blankets or some other type of fabric. When Aram got closer, he could sense that the pile was shaking.

He lifted one end of the pile and looked underneath. At first, he jumped back because he got surprised, but he took a deep breath and looked again. It was a man, lying on the cold ground in front of the house with a shirt full of holes and no shoes. Aram woke him up gently and tried to get in contact with him. The man woke up and seemed confused. He looked down on his legs, then up on Aram and then over at Monique, who was slowly getting out of the car. “I am s- s- sorry mister” said the man with a shaking voice. “I was walking around the neighbourhood trying t- t- to get a new set of gloves or some food to survive the cold and didn’t have any more energy to walk further”. He had tears in his eyes, he was shaking because of the chill temperature and was very embarrassed. Monique wasn’t afraid anymore, so she walked inside. While she walked by Aram, she whispered and told Aram to let the man inside so they could help him.

The big countries with large green energy firms had made a lot of money and the social differences had grown bigger because the owners were greedy and kept most of the money themselves. Aram felt sad about this and decided a long time ago that someone must do something about it. Monique and Aram had spent a big amount of their salary to help poor people and also spent some of their vacations to do some voluntary work for poor villages around the world. Now Aram had the chance to make a difference for this one specific man, and in his own country. “Come inside, I will make some soup and some coffee for you, what is your name?” The man stands up slowly and walks inside with Aram. Monique had turned on the shower while the men had been standing outside. The homeless man got very excited because he finally had the opportunity to take a shower. He told the couple that his name was Alexander.

When Alexander got out from the shower, Aram gave him a new set of clothes to put on and Monique gave him a cup of coffee. They all sat down to get some food. Alexander told Aram and Monique his story. He used to be a climate refugee from the middle east where they hadn’t been able to save the climate in time. His city had been flooded and they didn’t have the capacity to overcome the changes. The fields around the town had been washed away and the houses they lived in, which was built poorly had been crushed by the hot temperatures and the water. In other words, Alexanders livelihood was destroyed. Alexander had migrated to France where he got a job at a gas station, but he was fired after a while because of the electric cars that had taken over the streets and the gas was no longer needed. He got a new job as a gardener, but it was hard to get work in the big cities where people mostly had vegetable gardens or greenhouses, so his company went bankrupt. He got used to a life on the street, where he earned his money by begging or selling newspapers, but newspapers were made electronical because of the climate changes. So now he was a climate refugee again, this time because the changes destroyed companies and the world no longer had jobs for people without an education. Everything was getting so high-tech that only the rich and educated had an opportunity to become something.

Aram was deeply shocked by Alexanders story. He knew about the large number of changes that the society had to adapt to and live with, but he had never thought about this type of consequences. He had always seen positive on the progress because it made the world a greener and healthier place to live, but he now realized that it wasn’t the case for everyone. They finished up dinner and Monique was so moved by Alexanders story, that she offered him a bed for the night. Alexander was very exhausted, so he thanked the couple for everything they had done for him and then he went to bed. Aram and Monique went to the living room and talked about what had happened. They were very silent in because of what had happened, until Monique got a glimpse of light in her eyes. She started to smile and fumbled around to find her phone. Aram was confused and excited at the same time because Monique was so agitated. She finally found the phone and sat down calmly next to Aram. She started to type a number into her phone, and it started to ring. “Hey mr. Roy, sorry for the late call but I have an important question” she said and stood up again. She walked around the house while the man was still in the phone. Aram fell asleep on the couch.

The next morning Monique woke Aram up and he saw Alexander standing in the kitchen wearing a workers uniform from Monique’s work. The man on the phone was her boss and he had hired Alexander to put up the solar cells that the company are selling. Alexander seemed very stoked and proud that he finally had the opportunity to make his own money again, and hopefully get a new beginning. Aram had his first day of work as well as Alexander and all three of them took off at the same time. Aram was proud of himself and his wife. They had given a complete stranger an opportunity to prove himself and to prove that social differences shouldn’t make such a large impact on society, just because the governments try to save the climate. Through the day, Monique kept Aram updated on Alexander and how he was adapting to the new life as a full-time employee.

As the day went on, Aram began to feel like this wasn’t enough. Alexander shouldn't just start to work and pretend like everything was fine. He had been on the streets for too long to not be recognised and appreciated. Aram sat down at his desk and started to do some research. He took contact to different tv-talk shows and online newspapers. He wanted everyone to hear Alexanders story, and to make sure that the problem got addressed. Suddenly his phone got barraged with phone calls from journalists who all wanted to speak with the couple and with the homeless man who suddenly got a career. Aram was stoked and started telling everyone to meet them at Monique’s workplace so they could interview everyone including the boss. Aram took off and arrived way too late. All the journalists had entered the company like vultures finding a carrion. Everyone wanted to get the first and golden interviews.

Monique was standing in the entrance and looked even more confused than when they first saw Alexander. Her boss on the other hand was very pleased with the positive publicity his company was going to get and he looked very satisfied at Monique with an approving nod. Aram tried to explain what he had done and at first Monique wasn’t very happy. She thought that it was too much and unnecessary, but when she took a look around the press, which had surrounded Alexander, she realized that the problem was way bigger than them and the thought about starting a movement got to grow on her. When the mob of journalists was done with Alexander, they moved on to the couple. “Why did you invite a homeless man into your own vulnerable home?”, “Did you feel a responsibility to give him a second chance?”. “Do you think more people should move to action like you did?”, “Is all of this because of a poorly arranged battle against the climate changes?”. The questions came from left to right and it felt like a massive wave above the couple who were very overwhelmed.

They looked at each other, locked hands and Aram took one of the microphones from a very excited journalist. He looked around, focused on one of the cameras and said: “The challenges we stood against as a society were massive. All possible outcomes could have had ups and downs. It all comes down to helping one another and go through fire and water as a community. I have learned a lot about myself and my relationship with my wife and I am ready to do anything to help people like Alexander in the future.”

He took a short break and smiled.

“The climate changes would have been bad for everyone, but these changes are not for everyone either, let's go together and change this” Aram said proudly into the microphone.