Tyler Sulsenti

Professor Hammerman

CAL 103C

15 September 2016

Opportunity

America has been commonly referred to the land of opportunity to both those who seek to travel their and to those who call it home. The home of the free’s vast amount of open doors and pathways to success is only one example of the opportunity the world offers life. The course of existence contains in infinite number of possible outcomes and how the pieces fall into place is based upon opportunity. John Keats’s *When I Have Fears* speaks to me as a person scared by what they will miss out on in life. Keats writes as if he knows of the wonderful opportunities in life and will die before he gets the chance to experience the lot. I understand this point of view.

Keats is a writer, a poet, and wiring is most likely a passion or like of his, I would assume. Each one of us has at least one thing that we are passionate about, whether it be an activity, a learning subject, a fictitious story, etc. Keats explains his fear of losing the opportunity to continue his passion, “Before my pen has glean’d my teeming brain” (155). Keats is worried because after death, he will no longer be able to express his thoughts through writing. Any modern, normal person would express a similar reaction should they fear that something there are passionate about may end. Without life, we lose the opportunity to do what we love and when we can’t do what we love, we cannot rise to our highest aspirations.

Many of those who do what they love or know what it is that they are passionate about dream. Many of the dreamers, dream big. We all have aspirations, people we wish we could be, or things we wish we could do, or places we wish we could see. Keats explains, as another fear of death, “Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance, and think that I may never live to trace” (155) that he has dreams, in the whole poem he dreams of being famous and loved, but is terrified that he may never live to see the opportunity to seize his dreams arise. This speaks to me and tells me that we need to search for opportunity. In his poem, Keats is afraid he will never reach his goals. By searching for life’s opportunity, we may find that our dreams and goals are closer than we may think.

Life’s infinite amount of opportunity exists. Some of it will present itself to us, the rest, we will have to search for and open the door ourselves. Through the analysis of the sonnet *When I Have Fears*, this was spoken to me. There is valid reason to be worried that one may not be able to live long enough to see all of life’s wonders and experience each and every opportunity or even live all of one’s dreams. However, rather than worry, we must try. True opportunity comes from the choices one makes. Opportunity is a situation or condition that makes it possible to do something or make something happen and I believe that it is important for one to seek out opportunity to be able to aspire to one’s greatest desires.

Works Cited

Dolling, Lisa and Edward Foster, et al., eds. *Knowledge, Nature, Culture: An Introduction to the Humanities and Social Sciences.* 2nd ed. Hoboken Talisman, 2014. Print.

Keats. *When I Have Fears*. Dolling: 155.