Expectation: An invitation or Condemnation

John Buckley is a creative writer who has experienced the good and bad aspects of expectation. It is his wish for others to recognise their role in the limiting and expanding of expectation for all.

Expectation may be a determination.

Low and high find their way to create a conclusion.

High expectation promotes aspiration, innovation and inspiration.

Low expectation leads to devaluation, condemnation, a cessation of aspiration.

Expectation for the silent brings us from separation into an equal nation.

I think we all feel the weight of expectation. For those living with little, it can be the total of life. To have little, but to hope for better, makes us better. To live without expectation is to live without hope. Humans need hope for a better future.

Expectation can be overwhelming for some, but to have the weight of no expectation is a sentence. It condemns the expector and the expected. It limits and controls. It removes the choice in a way not readily seen. It is an unseen, often unspoken, but always-present sentence.

I live with the struggle of expectation. Finding a balance constantly challenges. To rise to expectation is often difficult for me. It is much easier to confine myself within the barriers of low expectation, the barriers of low self-esteem, the barriers of my autism. These barriers stagnate life.

The locking of expectant barriers lessens all of us. We are lessened by our inability to aspire, our inability to experiment. We are lessened by our inability to expect and be supported. We are lessened.

Expectation need not be a weight. It can be an invitation: an invitation to grow, an invitation to explore, to seek, to realise. An invitation is without demand. It is accepting of refusal, accepting of disinterest, accepting of fear. An invitation asks, not demands. It accedes, not condemns. It offers freely – offers the freedom of acceptance, equally with refusal. It offers, not demands – so should expectation be.

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