

The Beauty of Waiting

Angela - Fishers, Indiana

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How many times in our lives do we wait?

We wait for little things. For our food at restaurants. For tickets to see the newest movie. For spring to come with new life and more music. We wait for big things. For our acceptance letters in the mail. For our families to come home from war. For our retirement to set us free from the binds of our career.

And so often when we wait, we feel as though we are wasting time. In this day and age, when we are known as the here-and-now generation and our children are fluent in computer before they are in English. Waiting has become overrated. There is no time to wait on our touch screens. There is not enough time to wait in our email. There is no app for waiting.

We have forgotten the beauty of waiting. The fun of standing in line with our friends before the closed store doors in the early, frosted mornings of Black Friday. Hot chocolates being passed around, hands rubbing against one another, our whispers trying to keep each other warm. We have forgotten the gossip we tell and stories we share as we wait for our waiter to come with our food. We have forgotten that the best part of Christmas is not Christmas Day, but the waiting for Christmas, the songs of snowmen and sleigh bells, the smell of eggnog around the fire, the white of snow dandruffing our hair, the stringing of lights around the house.

Nowadays we are so busy with "living life", that we have forgotten that most of life is supposed to be taken in slowly, chewed, mulled over, and then enjoyed. We are speed dating, updating our profiles, going to websites to find our significant other. Instead of letting ourselves fall into the steady rhythm of life, we have turned up our volume and sped up the song, trying to drown out the wait around us.

I have learned that waiting is life's best teacher. It teaches you the importance of stopping to look at the sky or listen to the sound of the wind in your ear. It pushes you to stay hopeful and forces you to be strong even though you did not know you had any strength to give. It reminds you that sometimes you can't have what you want here and now because its better that way.

