

Make Some Lemonade

As I contemplate the meaning of a law of life, I have discovered that you cannot have just one law to govern all that you do and say. Just as a successful government has many laws, so must a successful person. If I were to write about every law of life that governs my existence, there would not be enough room on this paper. Therefore, I must choose. The most significant of the laws is a very simple one: Be Thankful For What You Have.

The first and most important thing I am thankful for are my friends. Without the love and support my friends have shown me, I would not be here to write this. The friendship I have experienced has given me my life back. As a result of all my friends I am not in a mental hospital being treated for depression. My friends had to put up with my sadness, my violent mood swings, and the fact that I was not always the best of friends myself. When you are down, and there is nothing but clouds in view, a friend can brighten your day. This trite expression is nevertheless very true. A simple smile was enough to pull me out of myself and back into the world. I am free! I am free! Oh my emancipators, I wish you joy in everything you do! Without your help, I would still be lost.

Also, I am truly thankful for books. When you are bored? Read a book. When you are sad? Read a book. When you are happy? Jump for joy and then read a book. Books fill my mind's insatiable appetite for knowledge. They block out everything around me. If you ask me where I learned something, chances are it was from a book. I have been teased for as long as I can remember about loving books so much. When I read, I leave the universe. Not in a spaceship, and not in a time machine, but through the pages of Harry Potter, The Odyssey, and the Mists of Avalon. If you ask me a question while I am reading, you may have to wait for the answer. Books are the ultimate getaway. When you are lost in a book, even the worst of circumstances can seem like heaven and the poorest of surroundings like a palace.

The last I am thankful for is my imagination: the ultimate gift. In my imagination, I can fly. I can right wrongs. I can fix problems. I can write novels and use my superpowers to help everyone. In my imagination, no one can hurt me. I can take any insult and I can ward off any blow. In my imagination, all my goals are set and all I have to do is run the race. An imagination is a band-aid for a torn soul, an outlet for energy, and a diary that no one else can read. An imagination is a place to confess wrongs where none will call you afraid and careless. An imagination is a horror that shows you every bad thing that could happen, and then shows you a glimpse of paradise that could be yours. The minute glimpse of paradise is what keeps me going. When I want to give up, all I have to do is imagine what will happen if I keep striving, if I keep holding on. The little imagined vision of bliss is enough to strengthen me for the road ahead.

Each of us has something to be thankful for, however small. I have learned that when life sends you lemons, you can indeed make lemonade. Be thankful for every thing you have, for even if the lemonade is bittersweet, you'll still have something to drink.