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Think globally for our children

Born inside many boxes of thoughts and conventions, I was raised to successively propel myself from the bounds of each inner box to its outer, the foundation of each box solid, the top ripping open to a limitless sky. I was taught that my reaches were boundless, bounded only by my imagination. I was taught that boundaries were imaginary security fences, otherwise why would the same people be on both sides of them? And I was taught, that pigment was a scientific fact, yet a symbol of abject ignorance, binding people to the fickleness of a long mutated gene.

I learnt early to see beyond those boundaries, past those lines of fences, and then one day with one final leap I crossed the Atlantic and landed on the other side of the globe from New Delhi, India. Arriving into Boston, I declared myself a citizen of the earth, tethered fondly to my past, yet eyes wide open to the possibilities of an exciting new world.

The people on both sides did prove to be similar; the sun, the stars, the land same, the earth anchoring on both sides. The same joys, hopes, successes, failures, prejudices, greed, aspirations, appetites rouse us and put us into despair, I discovered. Except perhaps that one wakes up with chai and the other coffee.

So now, in this, our self-proclaimed developed world, separated from the rest of the world by an ocean on either side, we have celebrated our independence, our sense of I, our right to be answerable to no one, (even ourselves,) for a long time. But I and most every inhabitant of the United States today, perhaps except the Native Americans, is living proof that the oceans are shrinking and the skies getting faster with each passing day.

The bazaars now span the globe, the futures and options of our economy and stock market dependent on the vagaries of distant worlds. Our local calls are answered transparently from across the globe, the software that runs inside our computers more and more being developed elsewhere and many of the clothes on our back manufactured in the Orient. We're not insulated anymore. So let us not commit the folly of isolating our children.

Our children, who will have to learn to navigate this world that is changing and coming together with breathtaking speed. Our children, who will be competing globally for jobs, dealing internationally with people who already have a leg up with multiple languages under their belt, with thoughts that span boundaries.

So, let us learn *now* to think beyond the boundaries of our boxes. To try and use our positions as mother, father, teacher, administrator, PTO member, councilor to promote thoughts, share and act upon new ideas and teach world languages to cultivate and prepare our children's minds. Let us learn *now* to use words and talk for betterment, not confinement.

Rooted in the strengths of our values and the warmth of our culture, let us open ours and our children's minds to a new and exciting future. Let us prepare them for the world that they will emerge into. If we don't think with an open mind now, it shall be too late. We shall have failed them. Let's split the penny creatively and enjoy its coming together for our children.

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