

Simple Delights of Life

I went to the post office this morning to mail something. It was just before Xmas. I was standing in line and it was pretty crowded with plenty of people in line.

Behind me was an elderly Lady who was staring at me on/off. When I caught her eye, I greeted her with a smile. She started talking. She said her Husband had passed away about 5 years ago. Long ago before they got married, when she was in College and, he was in the Army, every Friday, he would bring her a Red Rose.

She said my mask reminded her of him and brought very good memories. My mask had red roses all over. She said she was close to 80 (and she was looking quite healthy and vibrant, though her face had some prosperous wrinkles). She said she was not maintaining the requisite distance from me, as she had had enough of the Covid things and Social Distancing.

She is not going to bother with them anymore.

She said that it was her 80th birthday in 2 days, and she was very happy to see my mask and it was a good omen. I told her to go ahead of me in the line, as a simple token of a birthday gift.

She asked me a few times "are you sure" and I said "absolutely".

She moved in front of me, and told me that she has to make many trips to the post office, for mailing boxes to her 4 daughters (two in Pacific Northwest, One in Washington D.C and one in Mass). She said she has 7 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren!! They are absolutely the center of her Life, bundles of joy and bliss.

She then shouted to the lady behind me, who was holding the hands of her little granddaughter, "enjoy life with your grandchildren, BEFORE they grow up".

She got called by the postal clerk and moved to the counter, and I also finished my work and headed back home. On the way out she said, "thank you so much for your simple gesture, you made my day today, and I am so happy". She was beaming with joy for the simple experience of coming to the post office and for the pleasant interactions, mostly originated by her.

Suddenly, as if someone punched me, I realized how much Covid has robbed us of all such random encounters and interactions.