## Our World

A wise person once said, "Our world as we know it has dramatically changed as social media's platform reigns supreme in a world divided already by so many negative entities, and social media is a far cry from helping the overall matter." King Solomon could not have said it any better. The world we live in is plagued by the detriments of the digital world that has a dark side and has created more problems than solutions, if you ask me, as it relates to peace. As it relates to F.W. de Klerk's quote, "In our quest for peace, we should constantly ask ourselves what we should do to create conditions in which peace can prosper." It is hard for peace to prosper globally when so much of the world is intrigued by social media and all its negativity. Social media plays an integral role in everyone's day to day, so it becomes hard to deviate from so many of the adverse effects of social media.

Just last week, I was trying to research for my social studies class, and the spread of misinformation regarding Gandhi was out of this world. This man has been a world-renowned legend, and all of a sudden, he has been deemed to be a racist. While researching Dr. Seuss, I encountered the same widespread misinformation, which is heartbreaking. I want to be perfectly honest that the peace inside me was troubled as I was bombarded by commentaries that did not keep the peace. As a thirteen-year-old, I was overwhelmed and sidetracked by all the negativity surrounding both men. Social media's power to manipulate iconic people is a bit much if you ask me, and certainly not right.

Importantly, social media is where everything about who you are should be changed. As a young girl or adolescent, I am very impressionable, and social media doesn't help with this dilemma. The advertisements are all over the place regarding changing who you are and how you look. A wise woman once said, "When you look in the mirror, be sure to know that looks mean nothing if you are empty inside." This is a powerful quote, and I am certainly intrigued by the message as it is simply ludicrous for so many people to want to change who they are and how they look when their mind is not right. The focus should be cultivating strong-minded people who can withstand the detriments of this sometimes-godforsaken world. The idea of so many people changing who they are and how they look has impacted our world vastly negatively, as many people are dying to become someone or something they are not. All in all, there is a lot of pressure from social media to get inside the minds of so many and do things that are not the most beneficial. If people can't find peace within themselves, I am still determining what to make of social media and its grandeur platform, which is not always good.

With everything spinning out of control on social media, mostly with all the bad news, bad publicity, and nonsense, those things on social media bring joy as it relates to people doing good things or making people laugh. I enjoy a good laugh occasionally, just so long as it does not hurt anyone's feelings. Social media has been known to make a mockery of some things that are not funny. I learned some time ago that hurt people; hurt people. This is the reason for so many laughs because of other folks' sorrow. Thinking of folks being made fun of is the farthest thing from peace. In my 13 years, I have learned that people can become quite violent when they are laughed at and ostracized. Sadly, I have witnessed the unthinkable happen in real-time to people subjected to violence

because they were made fun of. I was appalled that social media would allow such footage of innocent human beings being killed. Surely, the sentiment of peace is a far cry when the world is watching such debauchery and making commentaries that support such violence. I want to be honest in saying that social media sometimes brings out the worst in people, places, things, and ideas.

In an ever-changing world, social media is a sign of the times and is here to stay. However, we all have to be forewarned of the dangers as world peace is impacted by social media. As people, we must be change agents that work together for the greater good and ensure that social media holds the best interests of promoting peace as a primary interest. At this point, I am very uncertain about this prospect in general, but I am happy about discussing such a valuable topic, which brings awareness. Awareness brings change!