GOI PEACE FOUNDATION

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INTERNATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

**"The Power of Culture to Create a Better Future"**

(1) Category : Youth

(2) Essay Title : A Simple Appreciation to A Big Achievement

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A Simple Appreciation to A Big Achievement

Culture is a great gift in our life God has gave to us. It is not only about the beauty of the arts. It is not only about the amount of the culture we have. We’re not talking about putting it off and screaming when others want to take it away. It is about valuing it in our life that will make us proud of having it. It is about keeping it with our love so others won’t grab it away from our life. And living in Indonesia make me realize about it.

What aspects of the culture in Indonesia do I take pride in? There’s a lot!

Indonesia, as the biggest archipelago country in the world, has 34 provinces. Every province has its own tradition, its own customs, its own values, its own dialects and languages. For each tradition, we still have arts like dances, folksongs, folklore, and traditional clothes. More surprisingly, if you want to travel every city and town in Indonesia, you will find their typical culture too. If I want to number it, it will take billions. Too much too be counted, let alone, to be mentioned. It is even too precious to be left away.

The best thing is, Indonesia have one culture above all the local cultures. Talking about language, there’s more than a thousand mother tongue in Indonesia. Nevertheless, we have Bahasa as the unifier language. Talking about traditional clothes, every provinces have their own. But don’t worry, batik is belonged to our nation’s.

To make a better future with our culture, the first step called appreciation. It is one way to take a step to the next level. Appreciation will lead us to acknowlegdement. Acknowledgement will give us love for our culture. And love for our culture will take us to the level when we introduce our culture to the world.

Indonesia had actually started it few years ago when batik considered as the world heritage without deleting the name of Indonesia as the origin country. Even Bill Gates chose batik with ‘mango’ pattern in his speech when people thought he would do it while wearing a high-class suit. A simple-but-big achievement for Indonesia. And it happened from the appreciation to the arts, the pattern, the technic, and all the things that batik brings.

Appreciating culture doesn’t mean we have to remember all the culture in every single province in our country. Be proud of it! That’s the simplest way to hold it on and make a change. Being proud will take us to bigger love for our culture. Love its unique thing! And that bigger love will make us taking care of it, and use it in our life. We don’t need to wait until others claim our culture as theirs, to make us realize that we have a great and a lot of culture to be taken care of.

Do something with your culture! We are young. We have a spirit that our grandparents want to have. We understand a lot of technology more than our parents do. We have an idea more than our little sister and brother could ever think. If you love to dance, dance your traditional dances. If you love to sing, sing your folksongs. If you love to write, write about your culture, write your folklore. If you love photography, make a click to shoot your culture. Then, share it to others.

After an appreciation for our own culture, we will learn to appreciate others’ cultures too. Appreciate it as we appreciate our own! Do not ever underestimate a culture you see! Because every culture, every song, every story and customs has its own meaningful value for their owner. Indonesia tought me about it. Appreciation to others’ culture, absolutely will make others appreciate our cultures too. Then, a dream of a peaceful world won’t be an impossible thing to reach.

So, why don’t we start it from a simple appreciation to our culture? Be proud of it!