

***“IF I COULD HAVE ONE SUPERPOWER, IT WOULD BE.... BECAUSE*”**

By Jack Kennedy

If I could have one superpower it would be to turn back the hands of time because over the last number of weeks I have developed a brutal new appreciation for my old ‘normal life’, for what it meant to be free and for the beauty of life’s simple pleasures.

When one hears the word ‘superpower’, the mind conjures up fantastical imagery. Perhaps the ability for superhuman strength and endurance? Perhaps the gift of speed and agility? Perhaps increased abilities of the mind, for asserting control, influence and power over others. One year ago, having a superpower would have held a completely different meaning for me. I would have been contemplating extraordinary visits to Mars, the chance to tiptoe and dance across the dusty red planet, to stare in awe at its expansive turbulent skies. Maybe I would have chosen to stand at the precipice of an erupting volcano, to be capable of withstanding its massive violent force. To witness the glowing lava meander, like a river of deadly treacle, turning to dust everything in its path.

A year ago, a superpower to me would have been the ability to instantaneously teleport to any bustling city of my choice, to feel the oppressive heat of the Atacama desert, to walk the perilous mountain peaks of Nepal or to be submerged in the green oceans of the world’s thickest rainforests. This is not the case anymore.

Today, if I had to choose a superhuman power, it would be to turn back the hands of time so that I could enjoy and appreciate the absolutely simple things I took for granted. There would be no global pandemic, no lockdowns, no worries and restrictions. I would go 20 minutes from my home and visit my grandparents. There would be no fear. We would have lunch and talk about nothing in particular. I would meet up with my friends. We would lounge on the freshly cut football pitch, eat some junk food and have a chat, we would have a laugh together. I would drive to the beach. I would sit and listen to the sounds of the waves; I miss that sound. The warm sand would get stuck between my toes, the clear water would sparkle like diamonds in the afternoon sun. I would go to an ice cream parlour, and I would order the biggest and most extravagant ice cream I could imagine, I would savor every last delightful bite. If I could have a superpower, it would be to have the simple pleasures of my old life back, to turn back time and really enjoy everything I had. It has become apparent to me over the last number of weeks that what we consider to be ‘super’ is all relative. I would do anything now to return to school, carefree, with no worries of a creeping contagion silently spreading amongst us. I would be happy to take a trip to the shops to get food with my mum. I would bemoan none of it. If I had a superhuman power I would return to that life in a heartbeat.

