

The relentless life of living abroad

Life is made of stories. How many stories you can tell me? We begin a new story that tells our life overseas. Far from our families, from our friends, from the life as we know it, we start to construct it all again. Constructing our life again from scratch, we have our measurements and our materials but most of them don't fit in this new environment. We need to observe and learn how life happens here. Observing is hard sometimes, because what we see doesn't fit our patterns. We are learning to look with the eyes of another, our judgment starts to fade.

Culture can't be judged. We feel that if we had been born here, we would be just like everybody else, so we step back. It doesn't make sense. My heart used to pound every time I saw the way people acted but it doesn't anymore. Am I getting desensitized? My vision changes: my glasses don't give me the clear sight anymore. I need a new pair. I need one that can be used here and in where my life begin. Sometimes I'm afraid of going back. Are they going to see my eyes as the eyes that saw life differently? Are they going to judge me as I judged my new life? This life gives me scars.

I've been handling tough situations. I've been holding myself and taking care of my own. I feel my skin thicker because of my scars and sometimes I don't feel the breeze anymore. Hardship has built my muscles and made me stand tall for other challenges. My heart doesn't pound anymore, my eyes see clear now, my bones are heavier now, and I can walk against stronger winds, I can swim through stronger waves, I can walk through war and not hide my face anymore. My heart doesn't pound anymore. I can get on the road again.

If I saw everything I saw in this place, what else is out there to see? I'm ready for a new road. I'm ready to see if my skin now can stand more scars, my glasses can see more sights, my bones can stand tall against other winds. My heart doesn't pound anymore. Sometimes I feel like a soldier, with no fear, no blame, no guilt. I just do what I have to do. Independence is my new coat and it fits me so well.