**My Personal Thoughts on the Indonesian Earthquake**

Oct. 16, 2018 – Dear journal,

So I’ve just learned about the earthquake and tsunami that hit Palu, Indonesia. It amazes me to read about all this after having my father live in Indonesia, and me having the pleasure to say I’ve been there. All the hotels would have signs saying “this way in case of tsunami”. I never imagined it would actually happen. Thankfully my dad did not live in Palu, but we have a nanny who is Indonesian and has family there. I’m going to text her and see how she is feeling. I watched a video on what Palu was like before the disaster. It was beautiful. All the places I have been to in Indonesia were living in poverty, and the places that weren’t were not nearly as beautiful as Palu. In the article I read it stated that all the missing people that were found so far, were found dead. This makes me feel deeply sad because it definitely brings moral down for the families who still have loved ones missing. After everything they’ve been through they don’t deserve to have thoughts in their head about how the people they love are most likely dead. I connect this to myself. Vancouver has been awaiting an earthquake for many years now. In my understanding that just means the pressure keeps building up, so when it does hit, it’ll be huge. Vancouver is said to be destroyed when this happens. What if my town looks like Palu in all the photo’s I’ve seen? What do you even do to come back from such a devastating event? My heart honestly goes out to the people there. The crazy thing that blows my mind is that the search and rescue teams ended their search for missing people so soon and said to presume them dead. The people of Palu were obviously not happy. Some families continue to search for their loved ones. After connecting to the people in Indonesia I quickly realized they are honestly good souls. They are happy with what they have, even though it isn’t much. Some of the kindest people I met are from Indonesia, this shouldn’t have happened to them. They were not greedy, not selfish, just calm, kind hearted people. Now they are left with nothing. Literally. The photos are scary everything just looks demolished. In the video I watched there was a scene with this cool clear blue natural pool, I don’t even know what it’s called. It had a rope swing though, and the sand was pure white with clear blue water. I want to go there so bad, but I know I won’t get the chance. You can’t just rebuild something natural like that, and it’s most likely destroyed and buried. I wonder if my dad will ever go back to Indonesia now. I would be scared, but Indonesia was one of my favorite places I’ve been. This devastates me because I can connect on a personal level. I wish I could help in ways other than donating money. I want to go there and help the families who continue to search for their loved ones. This is a horrific event I hope to never experience. My thoughts are everywhere right now. I have no other way to express how I feel other than genuinely sad. No one deserves this especially the people in Indonesia who are honestly some of the kindest and humble people I’ve met, and I’m not just saying that.

* Nicole Matonis