

We Only Live Once

YOLO. Remember when that was trendy? An edgy hashtag, four letters that somehow justified our dangerous actions. You only live once. It's true, really, unless you believe in reincarnation. You only live once, so shouldn't you do something beneficial with your time here on Earth? We're in the endgame now, only we can't blame this one on Thanos. We're eliminating 100% of all living things as quick and easy as a snap of the fingers, and we don't need infinity stones to do so. Speaking of infinite stones, we don't even have any. Our resources are limited, and we're eating them up like a bucket of bottomless fries. Once our resources cease to exist, so will we. This is a warning to change our ways, before it's too late.

Let's begin with our ancestors. Dear old people, like all the species you eliminate, you too will soon become extinct. You'll die of old age, but I'll die from your environmental impact. "Respect your elders," you say. It's funny how we call you wise. You've lived much longer than us, we're young enough to be considered babies compared to you and yet, it's you who are the uneducated babies. You, with all the power, sitting in your golden highchairs, demanding for more, unaware of the world around you. "Make America great again." America was at its greatest when nature thrived and man worshipped her, thanking her for her great gifts. Today's American thinks of himself as the almighty god, and nature his servant. He only takes and seldom gives. Not only are you racist, sexist, homophobic, you also refuse to change your destructive ways. "Back in my day..." Your day is over. A smarter, stronger generation is here to replace you. In the future, if we have one, when we're ancient like you, I hope we'll be admired instead of hated for what we did for our home. I must thank you, though. Your technological advancements have led us to extraordinary breakthroughs we can use to cure this disease you've made,

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because it looks like we'll have to be your maids. Despite her name, Mother Nature will not clean up your mess.

Now even though they started the fire, we can't just throw our ancestors under the bus and call it a day. To my generation: here's the tea, sis. They may have left us with a wasteland, but we can't continue their habit of apathy. I wish we were as invested in saving our planet as we are in celebrity drama. "OMG, did you hear about Cardi B? Jordyn Woods? James Charles?" No, and frankly, I'm not interested. So maybe you repost, retweet about environmental issues: "This is so sad, poor little animals..." but we need to react. You say, "What difference will I make?" and "someone else will do it." Our ancestors said that too, and now we have to be that someone else. "I would buy environmentally friendly products, but they're too expensive." That's the issue. It's all about money, isn't it? Maybe you'd have money if you hadn't donated it to Kylie Jenner so she could become the world's youngest female billionaire. What will she do with that money you wasted? The Kardashians already have as much plastic in them as the great pacific garbage patch. Or maybe you donated your money to help rebuild the Notre Dame, because of all the history that has been lost. What about everyone's history? Evolution, from the big bang to today's diversity of life? Soon, unless we change our ways, it will all cease to exist, but this time, they'll be no one around to mourn for it, we will go down with our ship.

We only live once, so let's do something beneficial, and maybe we can extend humanity's time here on Earth. Out of fourteen million six hundred and five outcomes of the present situation, Doctor Strange only saw one where we win. It's time to be a hero.