

Reach

By Maddy Jalbert

The biggest thing on Earth is the sky. It stretches over everyone, unavoidable. Every person notices its presence. It is always there, unattainable, indescribable.

When we are little we are told to “reach for the sky,” and yet we never can actually touch it. We keep believing as our hands frame the blue, reach and try to hug it, and hope. Perhaps we laugh when our hands hit air, after all, the sky will never move. We will have our chance tomorrow.

And then there are those who question. Who are we to reach for something so unattainable? The sky will never be touched, it never has been. Yet people keep reaching. And these others wonder, why?

Because we can.

And we can do so much more; as a race, as a whole. But sometimes we don't even try. As we watch others sink, we have a choice. There are those who wonder, Why should we even try to fix something? When it is fixed, there will only be another problem to fill the hole the other occupied. And then there are people who reach. The ones who try to grasp what may or may not be there, that may or may not benefit them. Yet they know that they cannot lose. For they can reach, again and again, and not fall a step back.

We need, more than anything, to reach. We must touch others, love them, even if we ourselves do not know how. If we try we will figure it out. We always do. It is not up to a few people alone to start the ripple, for ripples do not last forever, they fade and fade until the lake is still. Yes, but if not one, not two, but thousands of hands scoop at the surface, the waves will splash and grow, and the waters will foam and blister. Foam with the love, the hope, the compassion. And perhaps some day there will be so many gatherers around the lake that there will be no room for one more; we would be so tightly packed because everyone had joined. Maybe then our hands will meet, and we will reach **up**, because it is not possible to reach **out** anymore. And we will touch the sky. That will only happen if we show each other the compassion we need to grow, and an impossible deed will be complete by those who reach.