

Take Your Time!

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Life passes very quickly and we have to do a lot of things very quickly. But sometimes we have to take our time.

In the story "Locomotive 38, the Ojibway", from the book My Name Is Aram by William Saroyan, we read about a boy, Aram, who made friends with an Indian named Locomotive 38. Aram wanted to do some things quickly but Locomotive 38 wanted to do them slowly. For example, Aram wanted to drive his car very quickly. Now, an ambulance driver drives quickly because there is an emergency and someone can die or suffer serious injury if he doesn't get to the hospital speedily. But in Aram's case there was no emergency. Locomotive 38 wanted Aram to slow down and take a look around. The Indian wanted to show Aram that he could find greater pleasure if he stopped to see how beautiful everything is.

I had a similar learning experience. One day my girlfriend and I were driving somewhere in Pennsylvania near the Pocono Mountains and we got lost. I tried to find our way back. I was looking at all the road signs when my girlfriend asked, "What's your hurry? Why don't you stop and look around at how pretty everything is!" When I stopped the car, I saw a very beautiful place. If she hadn't taken the time to suggest that we look around, I never would have seen this pretty place.

Aram was always in a rush. He didn't have any patience. And it

was lucky for him that the Indian showed him that he had to take his time. When they went fishing that afternoon, the Indian showed him that he had to slow down and have patience because he couldn't catch any fish when he rushed.

I like fishing too and, like Aram, I can't catch any fish when I am rushing.

Like Aram, if everything is going slowly, I just drop it.

I know that there are many things that we can't do when we are in a rush. There are times when we have to take our time or to think before acting. I, for example, need to take my time and think clearly when I am doing my homework.

The world makes a lot of progress because some people can think quickly, but it isn't good to always rush. Sometimes a person just has to take his time.

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