

### **I used to... but now I know**

I used to dream,  
but now I think.  
I used to believe in people's words,  
but now I value people's worth.  
I used to appreciate keeping the word of honour as a vow,  
but now I know that even without giving your word to someone you shouldn't betray yourself.  
I used to be satisfied whenever I learned something new,  
but now I know that discovering and drawing from new sources of knowledge is never enough.  
I used to wonder why I have always been in a race with time,  
but now I know that an anomaly of nature is that the length of one day and night is only 24 hours.  
I used to believe that no one is perfect,  
but now I appreciate each person who tends to build on top of his/her values.  
I used to believe that to be successful everything you do must be with quality,  
but now I know that you must try to prepare everything with quality in time.  
I used to believe just in balance by harmony,  
but now I can see balance sometimes in each person pulling things to his/her side.  
I used to believe that undeveloped countries have to escape from poverty and then from illiteracy,  
but now I know that the process is visa versa.  
I used to believe each crisis could be solved by eliminating its cause,  
but now I know that the capital solution for many crises lies in capital.  
I used to believe that some people are born to be successful,  
but now I know that there are no obstacles on the way for someone who is pacing in place.  
I used to believe that progressive people make positive changes,  
but now I know that some of the ones who force changes might in turn be changed themselves.  
I used to think that justice always prevails,  
but now I know that the truth coming out into the daylight might close its eyes.  
I used to believe that each person gets equal chances for success,  
but now I know that the keys to success are often kept by the ones who have the master key.  
I used to believe that the first steps are the most difficult,  
but now I know that some people prefer crawling their whole lives.  
I used to appreciate each fight for the truth,  
but now I know that people can dirty their faces even by clapping their hands.  
I used to believe people who read know much,  
but now I know that those who observe know more.  
I used to believe the human being is the greatest fortune for society,  
but now I know that becoming and being a man or a woman in the real sense of the word is a more beautiful thing than becoming a king or a queen.  
I used to believe the first tears of the child are requests,  
but now I know that without controlling them they can become commands.  
I used to believe friendship is everlasting,  
but now I know you oughtn't step up to your friend who rises aloft until he/she sends for you.  
I used to believe all people consider books as real friends,  
but now I know that the ones who are indifferent to books frivolously impoverish their lives.  
I used to be surprised that some people are so greedy,  
but now I know that whoever is satisfied with little has more than everything he/she needs.  
I used to believe happiness produces friends,  
but now I know misfortune verifies friendship.  
I used to be surprised why some people act in an affected manner,  
but now I know that to be the greatest master you must become a master of yourself.  
I used to be surprised that professionals spent so much time on work,  
but now I know they sometimes have to go home, even though they shouldn't exaggerate that.  
I used to believe each one entering my office was bringing joy inside,  
but now I know some people do that in coming in while others in going out of my office.

I used to believe that time is money,  
but now I know even in the most terrible lack of time you should be in a hurry slowly.  
I used to believe that life is composed of bad and rarely of good things,  
but now I know that when you miss a good thing you ought to create or even to invent it.  
I used to wonder why some people suffer terribly from their job.  
but now I know that the constant platform for yourself to be happy is to fall in love with your profession.  
I used to believe that you deserve reproach if you lie to me the first time,  
but now I know that you deserve compliments if you succeed in lying to me a second time.  
I used to believe that to survive in a mountain you should be able to eat everything, from roots to fruits,  
but now I know that to survive in town you should be able to swallow and stomach various kinds of injustices.  
I used to believe that someone is wise if he/she presents him-/herself as wise,  
but now I know that the wise person tends to the endlessness of wisdom in the common.  
I used to believe that a human life is so complex if observed through a microscope,  
but now I know that it is so irrelevant if observed through a telescope.  
I used to believe that I always saw what I saw,  
but now I know that everything might be relative except relativity, which is absolute.  
I used to believe that no one can predict how high you can arise,  
but now I know that even you couldn't recognize that until you spread your wings and start flying.  
I used to understand that someone who knows in developed countries is recognized as a precious person to whom are generously given opportunities to show his/her knowledge and skills,  
but now I know that someone who knows in developing countries is often considered as an enemy and dangerous person who needs, first of all, to fight for survival.  
I used to recognize my one-year study in USA as a big step forward in my professional development,  
but now I know that the period of few years from my coming back to Macedonia, with a strong professional embargo over me, was two steps backward in my professional career.  
I used to consider the first few weeks after my arrival in USA as the period of my adjustment to the American culture and environment,  
but now I know that the cultural shock for me in my own country, after returning to Macedonia, is persisting almost five years.  
I used to understand that people could fight by arms or by words,  
but now I know that even two fingers might be a part of the fist.  
I used to believe that man is becoming an absolute master of the nature,  
but now I am afraid that the last word of the technique might be -  
h e l p!  
I used to believe the words of the ancient philosophers that the most forgettable thing is - the thankfulness,  
but now I know some people will throw a stone on you even if you are giving them bread.  
I used to believe that medical studies are among the most difficult ones everywhere in the world,  
but now I know that the doctor continues to be a student throughout whole his professional life.  
I used to be astonished that a man basically is a lazy being,  
but now I know that anyone, on the way of success, first of all, must subjugate his/her laziness.  
I used to be impressed that modern computer technology provides an enormous flow of information in the distances of thousand kilometers around the world in part of a second,  
but now I know that still the main problem is to transmit the information on the shortest distance, within the last meter - between two people, which sometimes takes months or years.  
I used to believe that you would enrich your spirit by giving forgiveness,  
but now I know that you will rather give forgiveness to a sinner who is already penitent than to a sinner who is not willing to recognize and admit his sin.  
I used to be satisfied whenever I had completed some job,  
but now I know that the days fulfilled with work are the days in which I live in the most real sense of the word.  
I used to accept that to make mistakes and to give forgiveness is human,  
but now I know that people will give you forgiveness for each mistake except for success.  
I used to be astonished of plentifulness of the nature and variety of plants, animals and people,  
but now I know that from the same flower the bee collects honey and the spider poison.

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