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### Translating Peace

Peace has been the solution provided for many of the problems in our society, but it has always seemed just out of reach. But I have always believed it is not just the absence of chaos or conflict, but a way you present yourself to the world around you. Peace is holding space for others in your mind and heart by listening, paying attention, and recognizing the value each person contributes. Peace: although right is not always easy, you must choose compassion even when judgment is easier, and choose curiosity when ignorance is simpler.

The idea of practicing peace in every aspect of life is what drew me to the work of Joyce Lussu, an Italian poet, translator, and resistance fighter. In a regime where violence was infused in the way people spoke, obeyed, and learned to silence themselves, Lussu refused to accept Mussolini's power as final. She distributed banned writing and helped independent thinkers escape persecution, much like my great-grandfather, who also chose to speak his mind through newspaper columns at a time when the personal risk was significant and the chance of change was minimal. These two figures exemplify the strong morals needed to be a peacemaker rather than a peacekeeper. It requires definitive action, which does not allow for silence that could be misconstrued as complacency. Their experiences teach me what it means to be responsible and to choose my words carefully and honestly. However, I also learned that peace can take many forms. For Lussu, translation was an act of peace, an act of connection. In her travels across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, she learned from poets, farmers, union organizers, and

anti-colonial activists. She listened to the perspectives she was taught to ignore and translated their words into Italian to provide them with the recognition she felt they deserved and believed was needed for peace. Just as she acted as a bridge for those unheard, I plan to do the same in my life, specifically through the work I do at my alma mater, Sonoma Country Day School. At Sonoma Country Day School, I first experienced what it meant to be a part of a community that genuinely cared. Teachers and students were all invested in one another's lives even beyond the classroom. It taught me that peace can also be about presence, about showing up for people, especially when they're struggling to show up for themselves.

What struck me most about Lussu was not only what she fought against, but also how she chose to fight it: with authenticity. Through her work as a translator, she believed it was not only her job to find the words but also to capture the emotions of the original speaker and portray their anger, hope, and despair with honesty. She said that translation was a form of listening that would not soften the pain or comfort the reader. Lussu did not translate for acclaim; as evidenced by her projects, such as advocating for the voices of women in global resistance movements, she did so to help preserve dignity. Her work was an act of solidarity that acknowledged suffering while amplifying the humanity behind such feelings. Her poetry echoed that same belief that the ability to see oneself in another's struggle was in itself an act of peace, a rebellion against ignorance and judgment. She embodied a kind of peace that does not retreat from conflict but transforms it, one voice at a time.

I also plan to carry her idea of peace into the future through community work, everyday relationships, and eventually my career. In community space, I want to create environments where collaboration replaces competition and where differences spark curiosity rather than division. In my relationships, I am to practice patience, forgiveness, and honest listening. Though

she operates in publishing, her principles apply anywhere: that integrity matters more than convenience and that we should allow empathy to guide our actions as our influence or power should always be used to serve others.

Peace to me is found in the choice to live with compassion when you might be better rewarded by acting with indifference or independence. Joyce Lussu's courage and my great-grandfather's integrity remind me that words and actions, when aligned with truth, can make significant changes. I hope to follow their example and live with intention when listening, acting, and speaking in ways that bring others and possibly myself closer to understanding. Like Lussu, I want to create a life where empathy and strength are inseparable.