

My planet, my place:

A Polar Bear's Story

Hi. I am Caroline. I do not know if you had noticed but I am not exactly human. I am indeed a polar bear. Last week, something horrible happened. My home was destroyed. I stood on my four furry feet as I watched my home crumble before me. There was nothing I could have done. That was the last time I saw my parents. Now, I am all alone with no home or friends. My family and I had been starving before this incident. There was no food. So, when a chunk of the glacier came crashing down towards my home, my parents had very little energy. It was too late. I had barely made it. I just wish that things could have happened differently.

The glaciers had crashed down because it was too warm. It had melted. Why and how did this happen? That was the only question I had been asking myself. Finally, I have found my answers. How did this happen? Well, the glaciers melted due to global warming. Global warming is when the Earth's temperature increases. How did global warming even come around? Well, based on what my human friend, Emma, told me, I had a feeling that global warming is mostly caused by the actions and activities carried out by humans. I have some examples in mind such as the invention of the air conditioner. It is a genius creation; however, humans use this privilege carelessly. Some humans leave the air conditioner on for the whole day, regardless of whether they are using it or not. Another example is the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity. Instead, these workers could use hydropower to generate electricity. It is more eco-friendly, which I recognize as Polar Bear-friendly. I am not trying to say that these inventions are horrible and should be banned. I am just trying to gently inform humans to cut down on their usage. Excessive use of these inventions caused my home to end up being destroyed and the death of my parents. Emma told me that she will help me through the journey ahead of me but I do not feel happy about it. My parents died because of the actions of humans and my best friend is a human. What will the other polar bears say? I am not even completely sure if there is any other polar bear still alive. I want Emma's help but I want to fit in with a family that is not different from me. I am in a dilemma. Should I go with what is best for my health or best for my reputation? I had never hated humans, unlike the other polar bears.

After a few minutes, I had finally pulled myself together and decided to join Emma and be part of her family. I wished I had just stayed. I could not believe my eyes. Emma and her family had contributed to the destruction of my home too. She lives in Florida. We met when she went to the Arctic for a vacation. Ever since that day, she would visit me at the end of every year. I thought she cared about me. To my disappointment, she was just toying around with my feelings. Now, I know

more. Humans do not just use air conditioners or excessive electricity. They even use cars that produce exhaust which pollutes the air. These little things can affect the world in great ways. That does not always mean that it is good.

I was shocked and decided to confront Emma. She felt guilty but she did not do anything to change it. Witnessing my friend as she truly is, I ran away from what was supposed to be home. That felt nothing like home. It was just a nightmare that I wish would go away. That day, I lived alone. With nowhere to sleep and not even anything to eat. In the house, it was not so bad as there was the air conditioner but outside here is extremely warm. At that moment, I collapsed right on the spot. Nobody came. I was just left there to die. That day I went to heaven and was greeted by my parents. I was finally happy. Yet, I was disappointed.

I hope that nothing like this happens. Humans must not be selfish. We all live together in one world. If we do not make a difference, who will?



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