

## Past, Present, Uploading...

Time moves like a river, never stopping for anything. As the river of time moves, it leaves memories and people along the shore. To understand the progression of humanity, we need to realise the importance of the river. As time passes by, technology moves with it, evolving day by day.

Many of us forget the world exists outside our glowing screens. To us, the past feels like nothing more than old photographs, the present is like a video you can't fast-forward, and the future like a loading bar waiting to reveal something new.

Long before Wi-Fi, life moved at a different pace. People didn't wake up to notifications but to the sounds of birds or rain. Or, at best – to the sound of an old radio playing in the kitchen. Conversations were eye-to-eye and memories were stored inside hearts, not on clouds or phones.

Technology is the silent evidence of human progress. Over the centuries it has evolved from the simplest tools to the complex digital inventions we have today. The transformation wasn't simple, it has succeeded because of the hardships the brilliant minds of our world went through.

If we date back a few decades, our ancestors were strongly against the development of computers and digital equipment, even calling it the devil's work. Today the elderly people who live in rural areas still stick to the idea of not accepting technology as a part of their daily lives. However, some of them who migrated to cities have already got used to the world of the future.

To have a better understanding of how the world operated before the time we know today, we have to hear it from the perspective of someone who was there. So, to satisfy my own curiosity, I let my grandparents be the very source of information.

Since my grandparents have always been living in the countryside, life was different than in the city. For them, life was full of hardships and everything was done manually, with no technology involved. As kids, they grew up working in the fields or around the house. Playtime was only allowed after you had done your share of tasks like carrying wood, taking care of livestock and sometimes even bringing water buckets uphill from the river. During free time no one looked after them, so they had no restrictions. Since toys were not available, they made guns out of wooden boards, hair ties and bottle caps. The caps were metal and led to countless injuries. To make better use of the guns, they made bunkers out of stone, wood and dirt. Of course they didn't play near the houses, instead they went to the forest of the hill near the village. School was no better – all they had was a blackboard, a piece of chalk and a soccer ball made by the teacher. There was a giant fireplace between two classrooms but since coal was too expensive, students had to bring one wooden board every week to keep the school warm. When they weren't working in the field, the elderly had their own way of

entertaining themselves, and gossiping was one of them. And honestly, I don't blame them. Once they would grow tired of playing cards, there wasn't really much else left to do.

As time passed by, nothing changed for the lower-class families. The only wealthier family in the village managed to get a car and a landline telephone. The car was used by everyone but only for emergencies and visits to a doctor. The same goes for the telephone. Electricity came much later, in the 1970's, but only one light bulb and a power outlet. However, despite the lack of technology, people were more connected and social.

I'm thankful for technology, it makes our daily lives way easier. Many of us can't imagine a day passing by without a smartphone – we eat, sleep and do more or less everything with it by our side. I hate my phone and sometimes wish I could just throw it and never look at it again. Impossible, I know because in the age we live today everything is done with the help of screens which are getting larger day by day. I would always choose to live a life sometime in the 90's, without a phone and screen addiction ruining my mental health. Or if I could just go back to time when I was younger - when my friends and I were playing outside and living without a care in the world. Unlike today when all I see is us staring at our phones at the same places where we once imagined we were superheroes...

You cannot turn back time and it's not something to cry over. It's astonishing to realise what we have made out of the once caveman world, and we are yet to see what the future holds for us. Hopefully a world in which technology will be connecting people more face-to-face, and less screen-to-screen.