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കേരള സ്കൂൾ  
കലോത്സവം  
2025 ജനുവരി 4 മുതൽ 8 വരെ  
തിരുവനന്തപുരം

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Participant Code: 416

## Grief

Jake couldn't believe it. He just couldn't. He found himself running towards somewhere. He couldn't place where he was for his mind was in a haze. He felt like his legs were taking him to 'that' place in their own accord. When he felt himself slowing down, he was at the lake shore. He frantically searched everywhere, his mind facing <sup>an</sup> inner turmoil. The two voices inside his head were arguing. "No, it can't be. It's a just a lie. JUST A LIE!!! A prank or something like that", "NO, it isn't. You saw him, you saw his body with your own eyes. He is DEAD, Jake". While Jake was arguing with himself in his mind, a snap from the distance brought him back. He looked intently at the place where he heard the sound, thinking that 'he' might come <sup>out</sup> from there. No. There wasn't anything. Before he knew it, tears started streaming down his already wet cheeks. He breathing became more rapid and his legs gave <sup>away</sup> their strength. With a thud, he fell down to the ground and started crying. He felt his heart breaking more and more. The news of his death was like knives to his heart. His mind

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was slowly accepting that fact. He buried his face in his hands and cried his heart out. His <sup>twin</sup> brother Jayce died. He felt as if someone was tearing away half his soul. A soul he cannot live with and that soul he has born with. His vision started clouding. He thought "No, not now. Please." He found ~~his~~ black dots covering his vision and then he was knocked out.

When Jake opened his eyes, he was at the hospital. His heart raced with anticipation when he saw a <sup>pair of</sup> familiar feline eyes. ~~But~~ As the figure became more clear, he saw their older sister in front of him. 'Their.' He scoffed "Not 'theirs' anymore". Just his! With that thought he was reminded of his death. He felt tears stinging his eyes. Before he knew it, he felt arms around him. Jane, the elder sister of Jayce and Jake, ~~found~~ <sup>felt</sup> her heart being shattered to pieces at the sight of her brother crying. "He left me, Jane. That idiot, he left me all by myself. How could he do that? Why would he do that? I hate him, I really <sup>do</sup> hate him a lot. He doesn't care about me. How dare he?!" With all passing words, he found himself missing his other soul, Jayce. Jane felt helpless as she couldn't exactly console him. After all, they were



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together every time. They were inseparable. But what he said the next moment shook her to the core. "I wish I died. I wish I died instead of him. I don't want to live anymore. I wish I was dead". She Her eyes widened at his statement and before she knew it, a slap resounded in the room. Before she could stop herself, the words came tumbling out. "How dare you! How dare you speak like that. I just lost one of my own kids and now the other wants to die? You impudent child! How could you say that? You are only one I have left. The only one. And- and why are saying stuff like that?" Jane ran out of the room, her heart pounding with rage and grief. When she heard from their father that Jayce died, she came back home as soon as possible for she knew how Jake would react. And just as she predicted, she found him at the lake near their house, convulsing rapidly. And when he fainted she took him to the hospital. Her boy Jayce died by a car accident. A drunk driver hit him and left him to die. No one could ~~even~~ save him. And the last thing he said was Jake's name. And now, she couldn't even understand things properly. she didn't <sup>know</sup> whether or not to console Jake or mourn



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Jayce's death. All of this was too much for her to handle. After a few ~~the very next~~ days, Jane whose eyes were bloodshot came ~~was~~ <sup>to</sup> her father and laid her head on his shoulder. They sat in a few moments of silence until ~~the~~ dad said, "You know, Jane, I read somewhere that there are ~~three~~ <sup>about</sup> 5 stages of grief or something. I don't know all of it but there was some stages like disbelief, numbness towards everything, mourning, <sup>understanding,</sup> ~~acceptance~~ and stuff like that. I honestly don't know where to begin. I-I just don't want to believe it but at the same time I don't even know what to do. I know it is true and I know I have to accept it but I can't - I just can't". "I understand, dad. I really do understand" replied Jane. And they sat in silence again until ~~hearing~~ <sup>retreating</sup> footsteps interrupted them. They turned and saw Jake who was going to the lake shore. <sup>Jane</sup> ~~they~~ decided to follow him after sometime.

Jake leaned against the tree. His foggy mind was clearing up now. "Jayce, you know what, as much as I really hate to accept the fact that you're gone now, it's just difficult. Believe it or not, I really do miss you. A lot. Yeah. Back then



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when you were teasing me about <sup>me</sup> missing you when you went to boarding school, I almost punched you." He laughed "But honestly I really do miss you. Or back then when you almost scared that kid showing <sup>her</sup> some weird face gestures and when she started crying I cannot actually believe that you told her mother that it was me who did it. You are so annoying. Back then and still now." He chuckled sadly. "I know you might be up there somewhere" - he pointed to the sky <sup>or</sup> ~~may be~~ might be around me now, I know you will still annoy me. Actually you really did annoy me with your death - no sleep. I just want to believe that you are sleeping down here". He looked at the white tomb in front him and wiped his tears. "You know, I heard dad and Jane speaking about grief. I am ~~now~~ now trying to follow that steps. And I believe those steps are disbelief, numbness, mourning, understanding and acceptance. And right now, I think it is numbness I am going through, considering the fact that I am talking to a tomb, like I ~~don't~~ ~~even~~ stopped ~~x~~ talking to you normally. And last thing, I really do believe that I am more handsome than you" He laughed out loud and started walking away. He found Jane



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on the midst <sup>of the trees</sup>, ~~and~~ took her hand and started talking to her about Jayce and they discussed about his weird habits, laughed out ~~that~~ loud about his stupid misdoings, all while having tears down their cheeks.

After 10 years, 27 year old Jake and 32 year old Jane walked towards the lake shore, which ~~was~~ consisted of <sup>3</sup> ~~the~~ tombs, one that of Jayce and the other of their beloved father, and the eldest one which was their mother's tomb. When 17 year old Jayce died 10 years ago, the only thing he wished was his family, especially his twin, to not miss him too much. But alas, he knew it would be an impossible wish the moment he died. So all through the years, he saw his brother coming to his tomb and telling him everything. He saw his mother at some distance and waved to her. It has been 5 years they were together when his dad decided to join them. So through the years, the trio saw the remaining two of them ~~group~~ grow up to become independent and most importantly, their bloodshot eyes <sup>getting back</sup> ~~having~~ the same shine ~~at~~ they ~~did~~ <sup>had</sup> before their deaths. They saw Jane and Jayce sharing their tears, sitting together



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and making memories, and their smiles becoming more joyous throughout the years. The three of them finally felt at peace knowing that ~~the~~ the duo moved on, albeit taking way too much time for mourning. Jayce laughed when he saw his twin, he thought that's ~~the~~ how he will look at 27. But that idiot is so wrong about him being the ~~handsome one~~ handsome one.

Of course, <sup>Jayce</sup> ~~himself~~ would be the good looking one. With this thought he <sup>eagerly</sup> waited ~~eagerly~~ to hear about them and their stories.

If there is one thing that Jane <sup>learned</sup> ~~learnt~~ from her brother's death, it is fact that the only wish of the dead ones will always be the happiness of the living ones. They do not want their loved ones to suffer grief for eternity, but rather they want them to overcome it. So whenever she has to console someone or herself, she always try to remember the fact that she should be happy and always be cheerful ~~for her~~ as per ~~the~~ the wishes of the dead ones. It is only by remembering the love and memories they had with each other that keeps the living ones strong. Therefore, the five steps of grief is



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something necessary for ones life. That's what she learned from ~~her~~ Jayce's death and the way they recovered from the grief. For her, her father and Jake, they dealt with grief in their own way. She always thought of the twins as her own kids after their mother's death. When she ~~felt~~ knew her kid died, the overwhelming sense of grief smothered her. That was disbelief for her. Her brother and father reacted in an aggressive way, her brother especially. Her father almost turned to his old ~~habit~~ habit of drinking but stopped himself due to her persistence. As for numbness, she saw her brother talking to Jayce's tomb as if were a living person while her father locked himself <sup>up</sup> in his room. As for her, ~~she felt~~ she always rummaged through Jayce's belongings. It was also the same for her while she was mourning. ~~Like~~ It was also the same for Jake and their father. When it came to understanding, the three of them found themselves crying in their living room and talking about Jayce. When it was finally <sup>acceptance,</sup> ~~understanding,~~ the trio ~~was at~~ came to dining table and enjoyed a meal that Jayce liked.





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When their father was in his death bed, it was <sup>his</sup> last wish for them to be happy. And to accept the fact that will be gone. And after his death, Jane and Jake found themselves going through 5 steps of grief once again. But this time, ~~they~~ their minds were cleared, their eyes weren't bloodshot anymore and their smiles became more and more genuine every passing day. Though the news was like a storm to their hearts, it cleared and became as beautiful and bright as the ~~morning~~ morning sky and as peaceful as the night sky. <sup>After all,</sup> It is the memories of the dead ones that will live forever and ever in the mind of the living ones, ~~which gives them the strength and will to live~~ <sup>as</sup> written in the poem 'Death the Leveller', which gives them the strength and will to live.