

Comforting yet cruel (poem/spoken word)

You hope those perfectly ironed socks and collared shirt finally get you a job after 25 tries

You hope for the warm embrace of a sour lover

You hope for a break from the monotony of that 9 to 5 job

You hope for thunderous applause to your drama production

You hope your script gets adapted into a television show

You hope for 10,000 followers on Instagram

You hope that the chocolate cake isn't a baking disaster

You hope your crush likes you back

You hope the popular clique at school thinks you're cool

You hope for minimal traffic on your daily commute

Hope pushes us forward

Hope stops us from sinking into a dark abyss

Hope was tailor-made for the optimists, bravehearts, and idealists

However, hope is comforting yet cruel

Hope seems to find a home in the laps of privileged

Aren't our reasons for hoping so tender and trivial?

Aren't our reasons for hoping so sweet and surface-level?

While you sip matcha latte cocooned in your swanky penthouse, have you thought about those who live in unhygienic make-shift tents on sidewalks and plead to get by?

While you strut to class with your Cartier bracelet and 500 dollar sneakers, have you prayed for those who wake up to land mines, grow up amongst dead bodies, go to bed miles away from their family, and watch their dreams being crushed?

Hope is biased

Hope is belittling

Hope allows the rich to weave dreams of a better tomorrow but mocks the oppressed and helpless

Hope for the chosen ones is calming

Hope for a minority is reduced to a hashtag circulating on social media

Hope is beautiful to someone making a TikTok video with 50 hand sanitizers and 20 packets of spaghetti in their cabinet

Hope seems bleak to someone who is shamed and harassed repeatedly

So, the next time you hope, don't forget to view the world without your rose-colored glasses

The next time you hope, be thankful

Above all, hope unites us

Hope is a warm flicker that keeps us alive

Yet, help each other heal instead of endlessly hoping because hope although liberating, is equally damaging

In these trying times, move forward with compassion and caution

When you are disappointed, stop hoping and start reflecting

When fear overpowers you, stop hoping and start believing

After all, hope can be your ignition or simply an illusion