BEAUTIFULLY DIVERSE

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Beauty is said to be achieved when everything is balanced and when there is harmony between every part that makes up a whole. The concept of beauty and what society deems as beautiful has a long eventful history. From the 1600's, and even earlier, beauty has been sought for and dreamed by many, especially the women. Beauty was a weapon that many used to their advantage. During those times, women that are considered beautiful were married to rich men, Lords of different lands, Kings, and other men of high status. It can be said that beauty was their bread and butter. From then, came the 1700's and 1800's, when the idea of what is beautiful changed once again. During these times, beauty was mostly based on one's skin color. People lived by the idea that women must have a complexion that is white and flawless, "The more porcelain looking your skin is, the better", and must be of equal and full proportions. Just like change, beauty is constant, it is forever changing and will go on evolving. But knowing the vast history behind the idea of beauty raises a couple of questions. Does beauty really have a set standard that needs to be met? Who should decide on what is beautiful and what is not? Does straying away from society's standards mean ridding yourself of beauty?

Fast forward to the 2000's, and beauty is still sought after, and its importance, greatly magnified. Huge names like Angelina Jolie, Britney Spears, Beyoncé, and more are the top standards for beauty. That leads us back to our question, "Are there really standards to be met?", unfortunately, looks like there is. Society has long created these standards that one must achieve in order to be deemed beautiful. Although these versions of beauty may vary from culture to culture, it still doesn't change the fact that this concept of setting standards for beauty does not cater for everyone. As an example, Asian beauty
standards focuses on having white complexion and being extremely thin, so Asian women who does not have those attributes are considered not attractive, or even ugly. Another one is how in most western countries, long hair, blue eyes, and a slim tanned body is the standard of beauty.

There are more examples stemming from different cultures and different parts of the world, but one thing remains the same, the society and culture forms the standards for beauty, and this should not be the case. Beauty is subjective. Just like the fact that beauty is ever changing and evolving, what is beautiful is also different from one person to the other. There should not be a standard set of beauty because every person has different characteristics and attributes that makes them beautiful. What you might find attractive, the other person might not. We have different ideas and take on beauty, and one must learn to respect and accept those differences. In addition, I believe that humanity has not come this far only to be divided by our aesthetic preferences. We are all more than our external appearance, and while it might be of significance, it is not what is truly important. For beauty is never one thing, it is varied, and beautifully diverse.

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