Kaithe Izabhel L. Montilla*

A simple life is a life worth living

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In this modern world, confronted with global problems such as famine, war, pandemics, and human greed, perhaps what we need is the serenity of a simple house surrounded by trees and flowers.

A small, airy bungalow built with a balanced combination of native and modern materials is perhaps what we need. With a roof of red clay tiles or nipa leaves to cool the house all day long, huge windows with shell panels or sliding glass to let the cool breeze from the mountains in, and a patio and backyard lushed with orchids, bougainvillaea, daisies, roses, and other flowers and fruit trees, what else could we ask for? Isn't this the kind of life worth living? A bucolic life we often desire?

During the day, all we need is the sun to dry our clothes, fish, and rice pellets. In the evenings, we look forward to a good meal fresh from the ocean and our farm and vegetable garden. As the evening goes deeper, we climb to our roofs using a veranda made of bamboo and wood to witness the beauty of the moon and the endless twinkling of the stars. Isn't this the kind of life worth fighting for, away from the chaos of the world?

Asked about why she likes to live in the countryside, Kaithe Izabhel remarked, "Because life is beautiful here, and I have my parents and younger sister with me. They are my happiness. They are more than enough".

This drawing was taken from a collection of artwork (drawings and sketches) produced by children between the ages of 7 and 14 during a Children's Art Day held on 05 July 2025 in Bool, Culaba, Biliran, the Philippines. Consent was given by Kaithe Izabhel's parent/guardian for her drawing to be published in Simbolismo. Bionote is not required, and this description was developed from a brief encounter with Kaithe Izabhel during the event.