

EAST FRANCE

NORMANDY → LYON

MY TIME OF TRAVELLING HAD SLOWLY WOUND TO AN END, AS I WAS BOTH TIRED FROM CONSTANTLY MOVING, AS WELL AS QUICKLY RUNNING OUT OF MONEY. BUT BEFORE I WENT, I DECIDED TO MAKE A DETOUR TO LYON WHERE MY GRANDPARENTS OWNED A SMALL COUNTRY HOME IN THE PARK OF THE PYLA, TO VISIT THEM BEFORE HEADING BACK TO THE STATES.

I BELIEVE TOLSTOY PUT IT BEST WHEN HE SAID "A QUIET SECLUDED LIFE IN THE COUNTRY...REST, NATURE, BOOKS, MUSIC- SUCH IS MY IDEA OF HAPPINESS."

IN ALL HONESTY, I WASN'T READY TO GO BACK TO MY SURBURBAN HOME IN THE USA. I HAD GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO APPRECIATE THE SIMPLICITY WHICH THE COUNTRY LIFE BROUGHT. THE ROUTINE OF RETREATING BACK INTO SOME OLD WOODEN HOUSE AFTER A DAYS WORK OUTSIDE. TO SIT BY THE FIRE, SIPPING A GIN 'N' TONIC AND READ, OR SIMPLY DISCUSS COUNTLESS THINGS WITH WHOEVER WAS CLOSEST BY.

I ONLY WISHED I HAD A REASON OR EXCUSE TO STAY, BUT SOONER OR LATER I KNEW I WOULD HAVE TO FACE THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH AWAITED ME AT HOME. STILL, AS I SAT ON THE SMALL STONE WALL OUTSIDE, WEAVING PRODUCE NET SACKS, MADE OUT OF SOME OLD TWINE AND YEARN I FOUND, I LOOKED BACK TO ALL OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS I HAD, HAD ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AND WHAT I COULD DO TO CHANGE MY LIFE STYLE TO LIFE MORE ECOLOGICALLY.

I HAD SEARCHED FOR A JOB IN THE SUSTAINABLE FASHION BUSINESS FOR NEARLY A YEAR, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, WITH NO LUCK. AND I REMEMBERED THEN, THE FRUSTURATION THAT NO ONE WOULD GIVE ME A JOB IN AN INDUSTRY THAT WAS HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT. I HADEN'T CARED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF ZEROES IN A PAYCHECK, AND HAD INSTEAD TRIED TO FOLLOW MY CONCIOUS OF DOING GOOD FOR OTHERS IN MY CAREER, BUT HAD COME UP EMPTY HANDED THOSE 6 MONTHS, WHICH IS WHAT ULTIMATELY LED ME TO RUN TO EUROPE.

BUT MY ENVIRONMENTAL VIEWS ENDED UP FOLLOWING ME TO EUROPE, AND HEARING FROM OTHERS THEIR VIEWS AND OPINIONS ON THE ENVIORNMENTAL CRISIS AND ALL THEY HAD ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IN THEIR DAILY LIFE TO REDUCE THEIR FOOTPRINTS, BROUGHT BACK THE SPIRIT AND HOPE I HAD TO MAKE A CAREER AND LIFESTYLE AROUND THE ISSUE. AND I WISH I COULD SAY THAT THE MOMENT I CAME BACK TO THE USA, MY LUCK TURNED AND I FOUND A CAREER INSTANTLY, BUT THAT WASN'T THE CASE. I HAVE LEARNED TO DO MY PART AND ALL THAT I CAN TO LIVE BY MY BELIEFS, AND HOPE THAT ONE DAY I WILL SEE IT DEVELOP INTO SOMETHING WHICH HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.

