

[Time Warp]

Location: Thessaloniki History Center

Date: 23/10/2013

Log:\

Entry 1:\

I feel as if I was in a graveyard. Or at least in another dimension. It feels like I have entered a black hole and traveled back in time. If my city were a human, I would be now intruding upon its long gone childhood. Although it does feel more than a past life. This city has suffered many deaths -fires, earthquakes, exterminations. And yet it is still alive. Not the same, but alive indeed.

Two floors packed with remnants of the past: photographs, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, books, maps, documents. Images of old buildings and monuments, descriptions of places that were buried alive, photographs of people's faces so different from ours. What is actually the purpose that all these relics serve?

Can life be really captured in any way? Can reality be mummified, put into a refrigerator, cloned or duplicated?

What has been lived once can be re-called a million times, but it will never - ever - be re-lived again.

And yet IT does survive. Some would call it re-incarnation. I would rather resort to more scientific terminology. The Law of Preservation of Energy; a law of physics, and physics never lies. Nothing vanishes, but everything is transformed. We are all part of a constant recycling process.

Entry 2:\

Exiting the building, I feel like returning home from a long journey. I look around me scanning the area. A minute ago a map was reassuring me that none of the buildings that I see in front of me now were supposed to be there. But yet they are. Big, grey and dirty. The temptation of comparison is inescapable. It is the past versus the present.

Fortunately or unfortunately, I have a thing for outsiders.

I know that the past is mystifying. I really do. But this is my Now. It is not the best we could have, but it is still ours. It is ours to live, but it is also ours to forge. We need to respect our past, but to respect the past means to respect the present at the same time. After all, it is our past that was once the present, and it is our present that will become our future's past.