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## Clouds

A moment that sticks out to me a lot in my life is one night in the summer of 2019. It's one of the few things I get nostalgic about. Sometimes I will hear a song that reminds me of feelings I had that summer night. If you were to ask me about that night in person I would probably say something along the lines of "Yea it was pretty cool i guess". Instead now that I can write everything down I'm going to give a full account of what happened and why it was so important to me.

Me and my friends had already been camping for about a week so far. It was around 9:30 pm at night and we wanted something to do. We already knew about this big tower called "the fire tower". It is a tower that used to be used by rangers in the woods to watch for forest fires. Because of how high it is people are able to see miles of land to make sure there aren't fires. It was roughly a mile going uphill from our campsite. Our group of seven people decided that we would take the hike to go up to the fire tower. When we got there we were in awe of how tall the tower really was. It was not something that I could have imagined, in person it was huge. It was the kind of big it made you forget that you were in a human body and not just a spirit.

Some of us were eager to climb the 8 sets of winding stairs up to the top of the tower, the place where you look out to look for fires, others were not as excited because of their fear of heights. Even though some of us were scared to go up we all did at least once. Walking up was the scariest part for me because there were gaps between each stair where you could gradually watch as the ground got farther and farther, there is a reason people say don't look down when you're on something really high. Of Course, my friend Mateo had to make it even harder by jumping up and down and periodically yelling to scare us. When we got up to the top of the tower it was worth it. It was one of the moments in life when the climb was worth what's at the top, literally. We made it up the stairs as soon as the sun started going down over the trees. I am not someone who pauses to look around as much in life. I never really cared about nature or anything but when I got up to the little room squeezed in with my friends and looked out over the trees I was in awe. It looked like I was in a bob ross painting. Standing there with my friends close to me all looking out at the view in silence felt like a post credit scene. A post-credits scene or mid-credits scene is a short clip that appears after all or some of the closing credits have rolled in a film. Usually when watching a film this is the part where you realize that the characters have conquered whatever struggle they faced throughout the movie and are finally free from the feeling of distress about if they are going to be ok. This scene is the last reassurance before finding closure and the film ends. This is what

it felt like at that moment even though this wasn't a movie nor was it the end of anything.

Throughout my life I have had a mindset of feeling like I was just *there* not really caring about what I was doing or seeing. I never stopped to look around. The best way to describe myself before this random summer day was like a cloud. I was just floating along in life without really any direction or grounding, not very motivated at anything, and not really attached to anything. I really liked being a cloud too. This seemed like the lifestyle I wanted. I would never understand what leads people to be so inspired to work their hardest or be so motivated at things that they didn't *have to do*. I felt like I was just.. floating.

Standing on this tower, squeezed into a small room with my friends I had an epiphany. I was really in the moment for one of the first times in my life. I wasn't floating, I wasn't just there, I was actually experiencing these moments that I would remember for the rest of my life. I didn't want to feel like a cloud anymore. I was happy being there, in a tower, in the middle of the forest, on a random summer night, with my friends.