

# „If I don't do anything, I will regret it later“ Greta Thunberg



*AW: Where does your radical determination come from? What do you think?*

**Greta Thunberg:** I'm realistic. And I know what needs to be done. And then I just do it. I have no doubts and second thoughts. When I decide to do something and when it's something I'm really passionate about, then I do it. There's no second option. And I know how bad the situation is. I spoke to countless of scientists and I have read countless of reports and articles, and I know how bad the situation is. And then I feel like if I don't do anything, then I will regret it later.

*AW: In Davos you said, "I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day." What exactly are you afraid of?*

**GT:** I am afraid of the uncertainty of the future, that we don't know what is going to happen. We might soon, if we haven't already passed tipping point, and once we do that there's no going back. And then we can't just invent something in the future, or new technologies, because then the earth gets in a position where it starts warming itself ... By panic I mean we step out of our comfort zones and that we change our behaviour in our way to look at this crisis and treat this crisis.

*AW: Can you understand that there are many people who don't feel the fear you feel and who have not begun to panic so far.*

**GT:** Definitely. Because to feel this fear and to have that feeling and convictions you need to know what is going on. And the most people I speak to, they don't, they are not fully aware of the situation. And when you are not fully aware of the situation, then you can't, you don't know really what is going on. And you don't know in that situation what you need to do, what your role is and what really is at risk.

*AW: You have Asperger's Syndrome. I'm not that familiar with it and I think most of the people aren't. So if you don't mind, what impact does the syndrome have on the way you think?*

**GT:** It has very much impact. Because if I wouldn't have had this diagnosis then I would have been like everyone else, and I had just continued like everyone else not noticing something was wrong. But now I am different. I think different, I work differently.

*AW: Do you understand differently as well?*

**GT:** Some things. Some people say that, oh, climate change is so important. And yet they

just carry on like before, and I don't understand how you can have such double standards. If I think something is important, then I spend 100 percent of my energy on that. And I can't do that at the same time as I am doing the opposite, as people do today.

*AW: You have also faced criticism, as you know. There are people who claim, for example, that you do not write your speeches yourself, that you are manipulated and instrumentalised. Is there any truth behind it?*

**GT:** I mean it's just ridiculous, really, that people think so little of each other that they try to put others down. And that no one can do something just for a good cause ... And of course I'm not manipulated. I write my own speeches, but sometimes I have like scientists come with input so that everything is correct, so that nothing can be misunderstood.

*AW: Has it hurt you, that people say these things and are looking for a hidden agenda?*

**GT:** I think in the beginning it did. I was sad because they spread lies and that they spent all the time spreading hate and lies and leaving out facts. But then I realised that I can't do anything about it. They were just this small percentage of all the people. And that since they are doing that, writing those things, it means that what we are doing, the school strike movement is doing, is having an impact and that they feel threatened by it. So I think it's a positive sign.

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