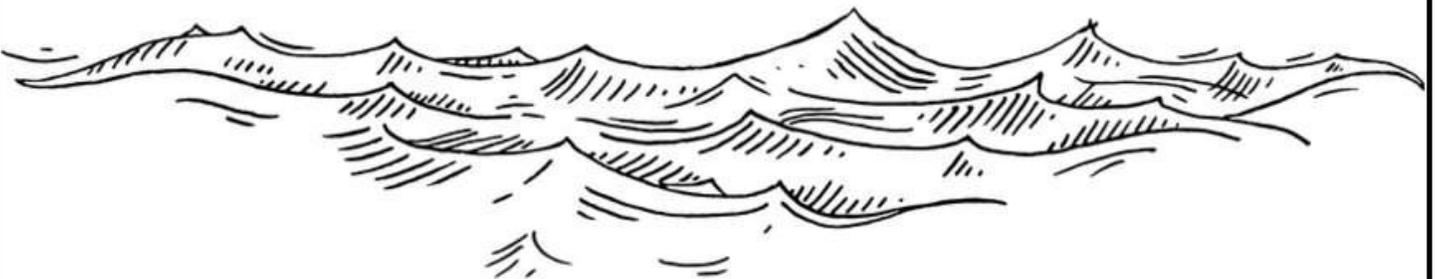


Williams
An Odyssey





1. Barcelona, Spain

2. Rome, Italy

3. Pompeii, Italy

4. Athens, Greece

5. Santorini, Greece

6. Cairo, Egypt

7. Luxor, Egypt

Travel Statement:

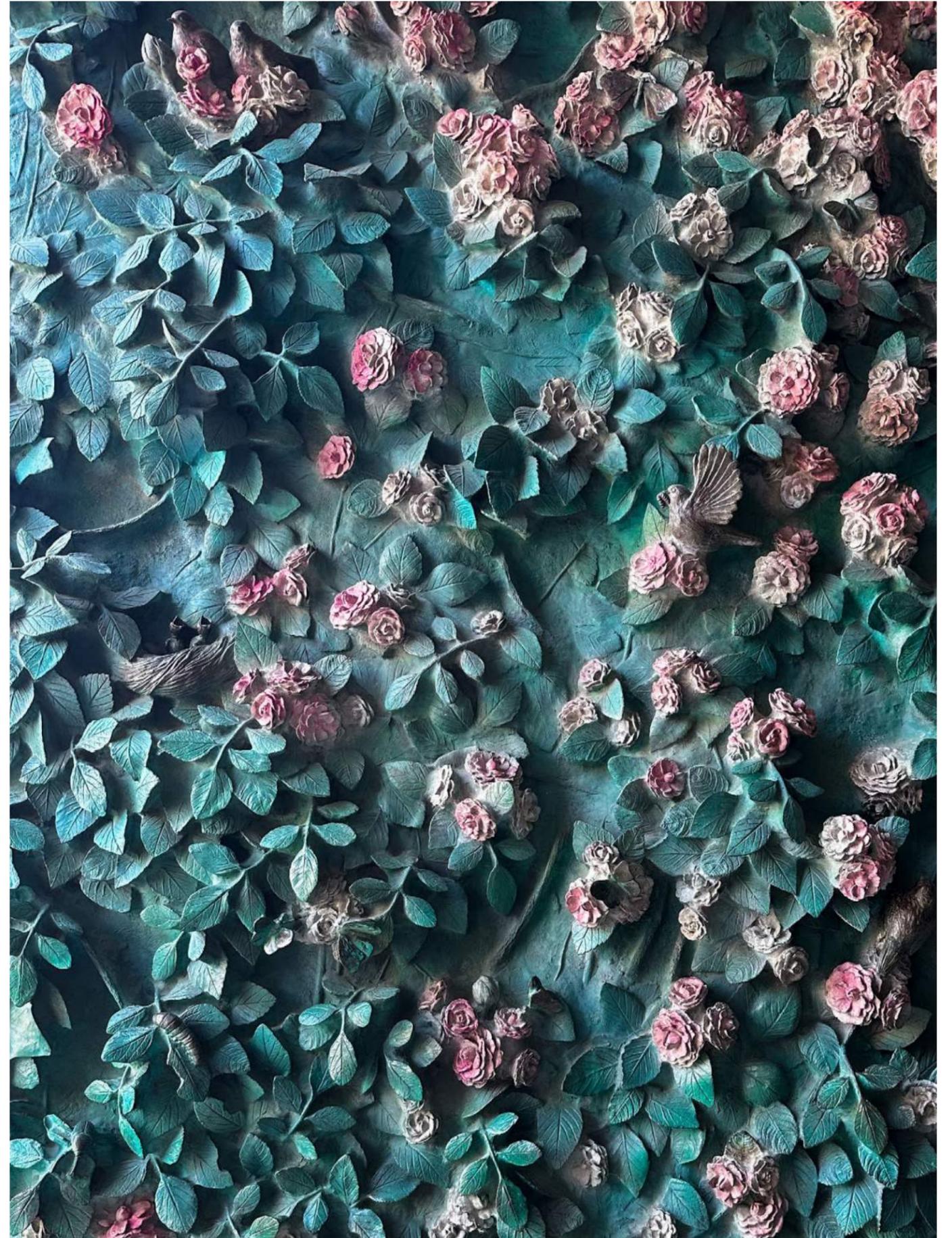
Two years ago, I submitted my project along with a travel statement to the Lyceum Fellowship. I remember writing my statement and trying to fight the right order of my words to convey a feeling I have had for a lifetime. I hope to tell you again with new feelings I have.

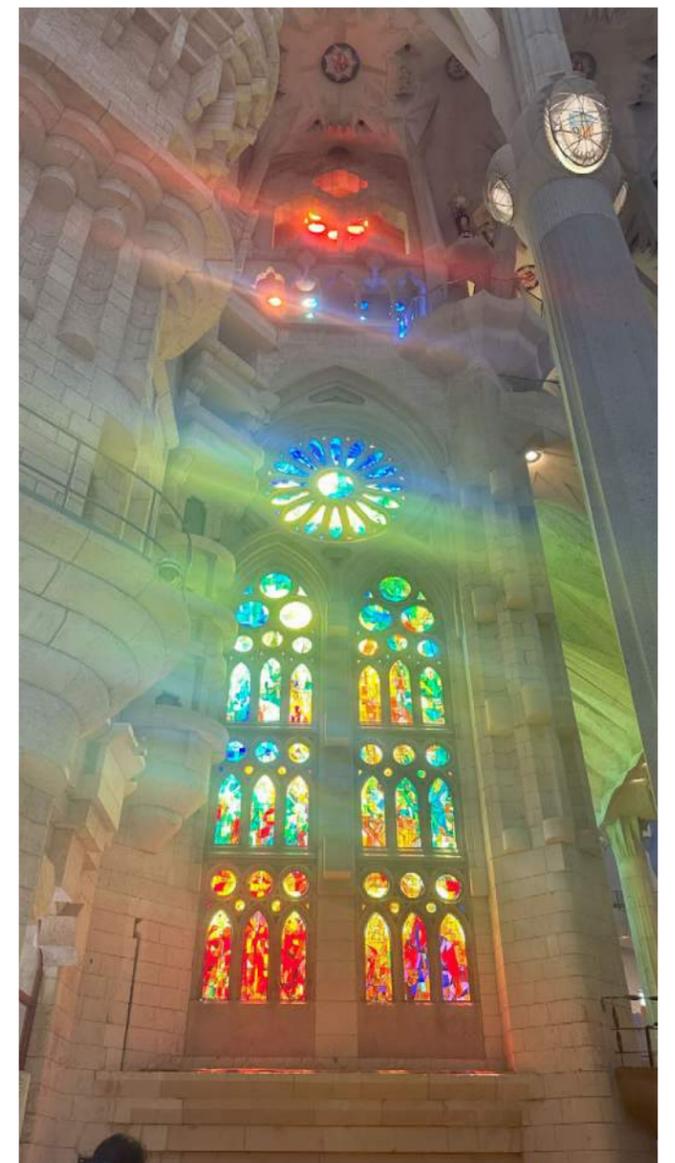
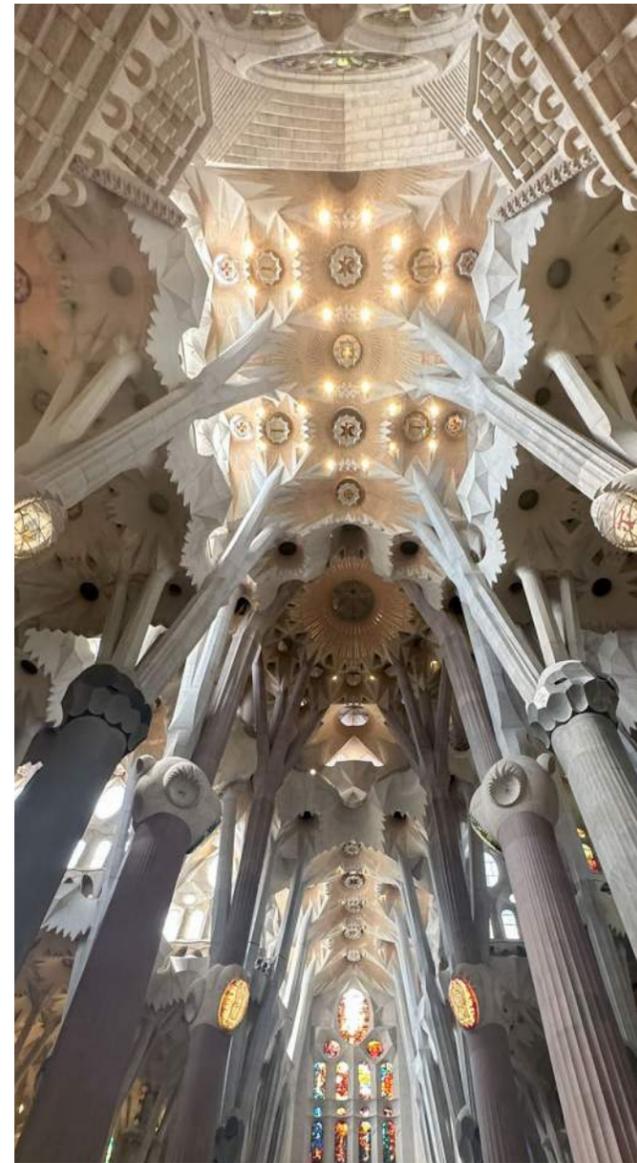
The air in Italy tastes lightly salted with the sea as a warm breeze flows through your fingers. I noticed the smell as soon as I stepped foot out of the airport. It was a smell I clinged to till I could no longer recognize it as familiarity set in. I always find it interesting the memories we try to cling to and remember every little detail. I remember breathing in every salty breath deeply to savor the seconds in hopes they would last a lifetime. I remember looking at the Italian sky and suddenly realizing I have looked at it for years prior in paintings. Suddenly, picturesque paintings that depicted a landscape I thought dramatic were actually real. Those beautiful skies painted for centuries were real and I was standing looking at them. I suddenly understood the Italian romance that was forever depicted in media because to be in such a beautiful place means to express that beauty in so many manners such as literature, paintings, and architecture.

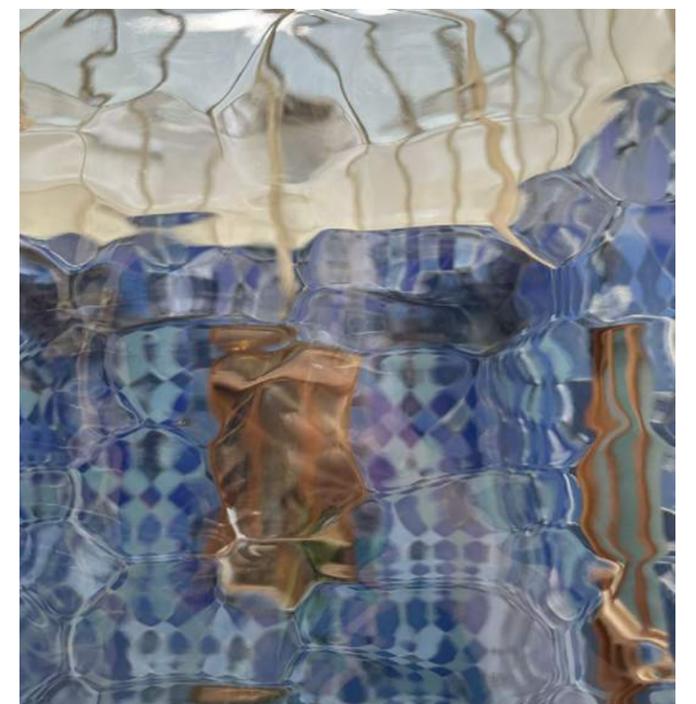
I can now tell you what it feels like to stand in awe of La Sagrada Familia. I can tell you what the echoing of footsteps sound like in the Sistine Chapel where everyone shuffles at a glance to see Michelangelo's masterpiece. I can tell you how small I felt standing among the Baroque Architecture of St. Peters Basilica. How arid it felt atop the Acropolis where Greek Gods were told to have been. I can tell you how hot it is in Egypt in a way that is truly indescribable unless you have been there yourself. I can tell you what it feels to be at the crest of the Mediterranean and see so many places and cultures that have nestled themselves there for millenia.

Barcelona

A place where the beauty of the architecture makes you stand in awe. Never before had I seen Gaudi's work and now I can say I have seen it with my own eyes. I have seen such beautiful architecture that would make anyone feel overwhelmed by the sheer scale.

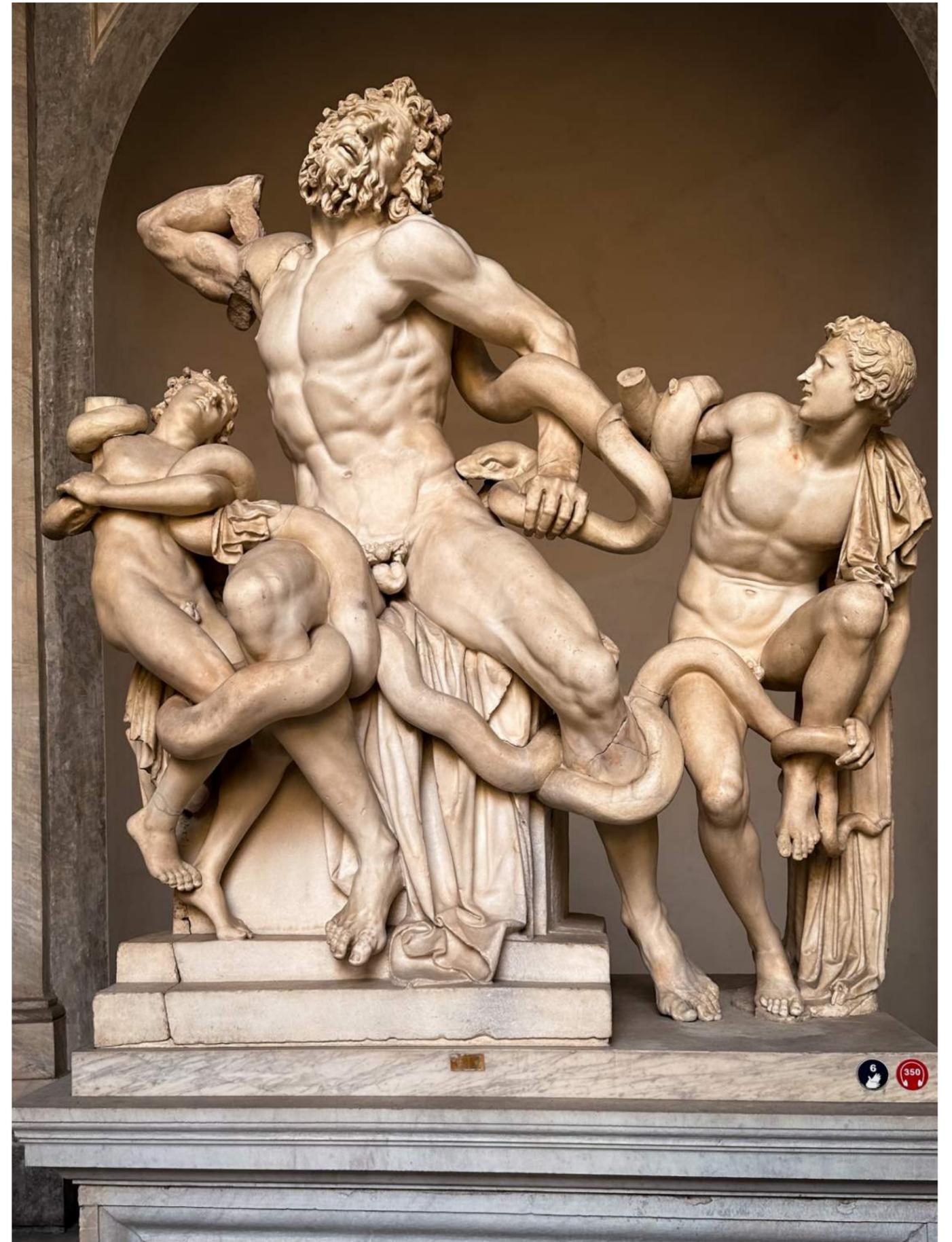


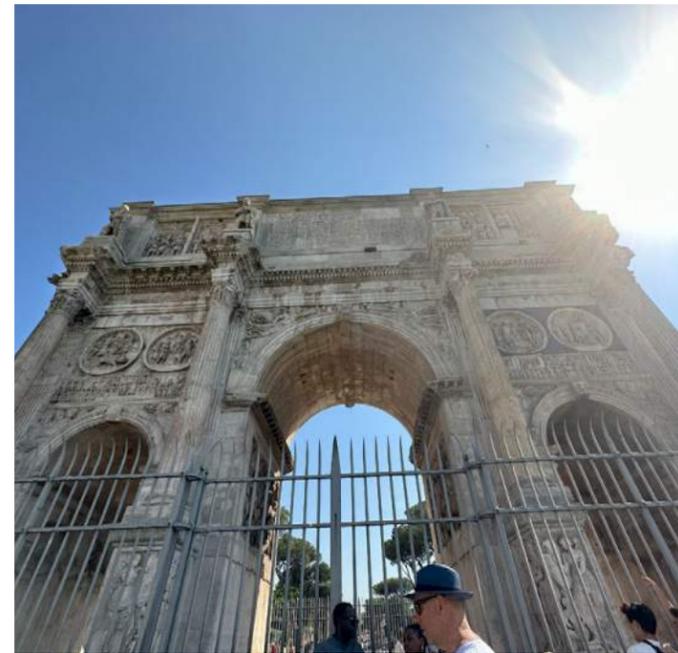


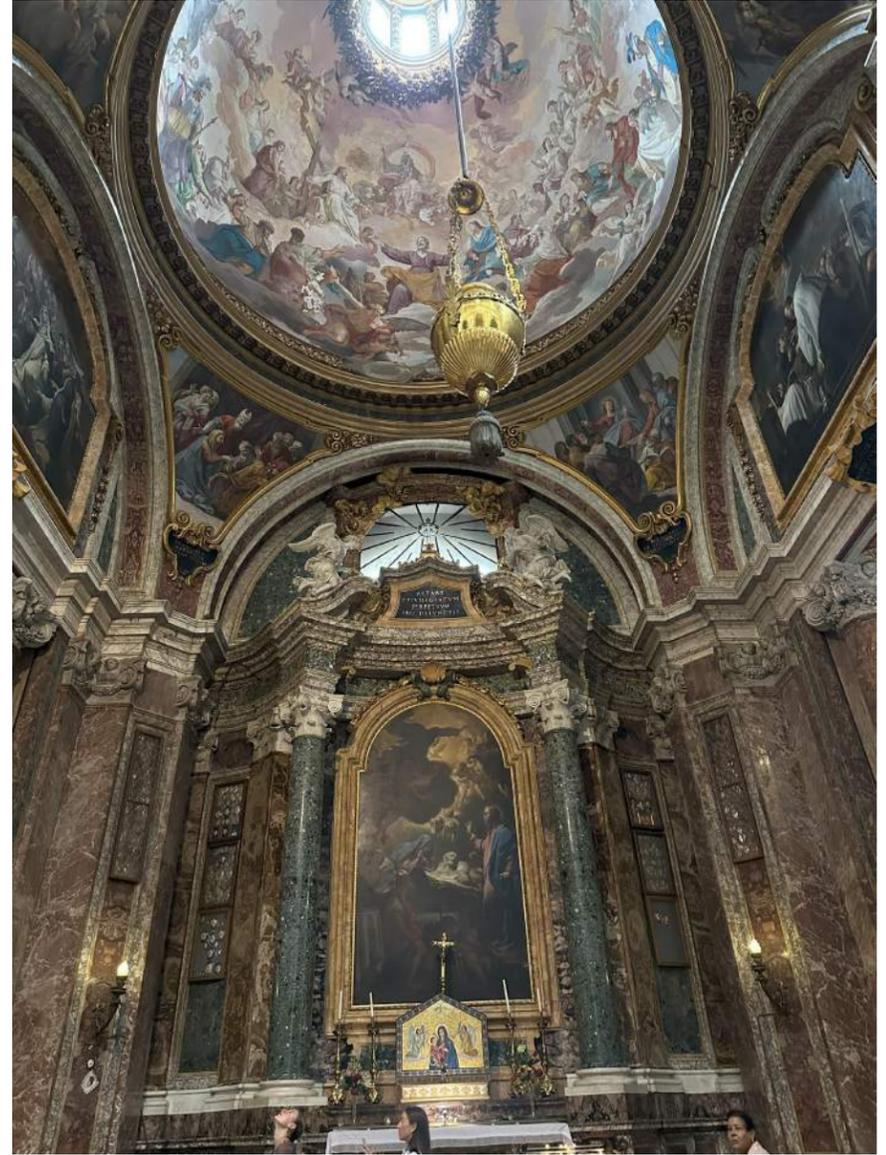


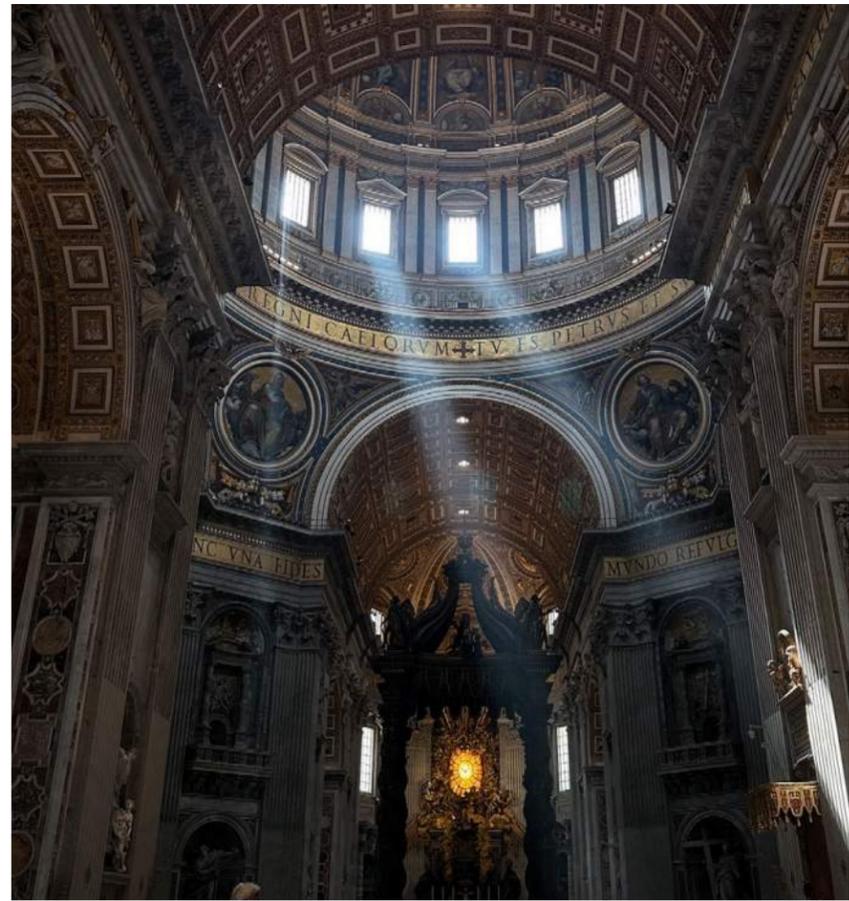
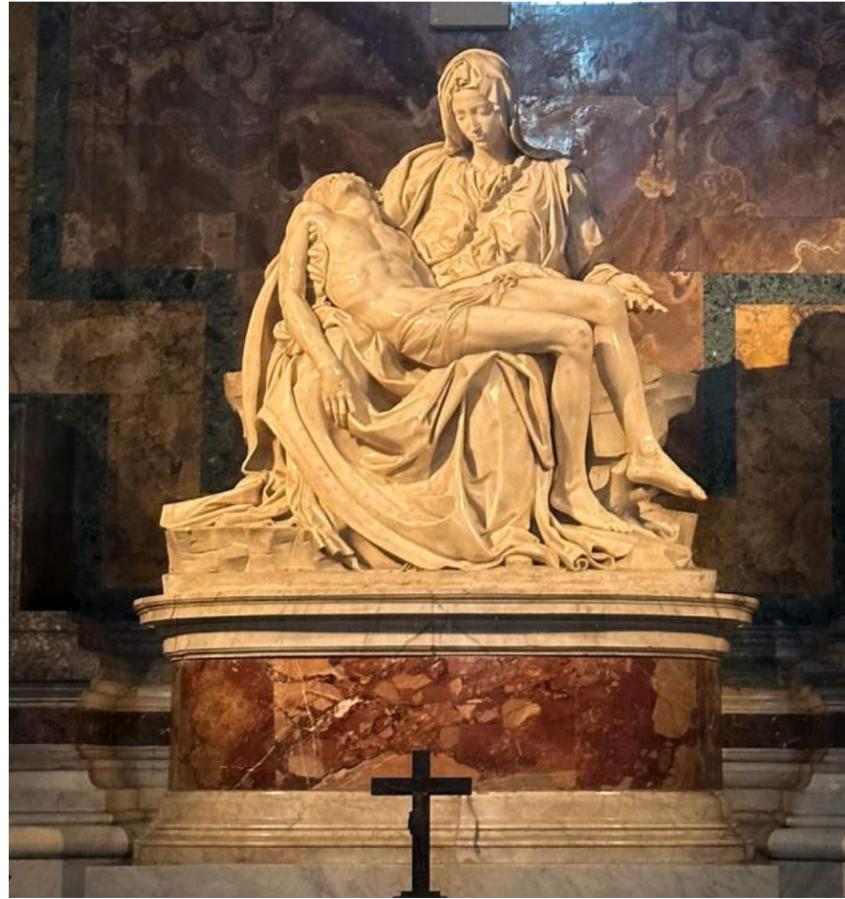
Rome

I remember this moment in Rome when I was in the Sistine chapel, although technically The Vatican, where I arched my neck back as far as I could to look at the Creation of Adam. I stared at it as long as I could. It was a painting I had seen my entire life, and yet I had never actually seen it. That was a moment I will always remember.





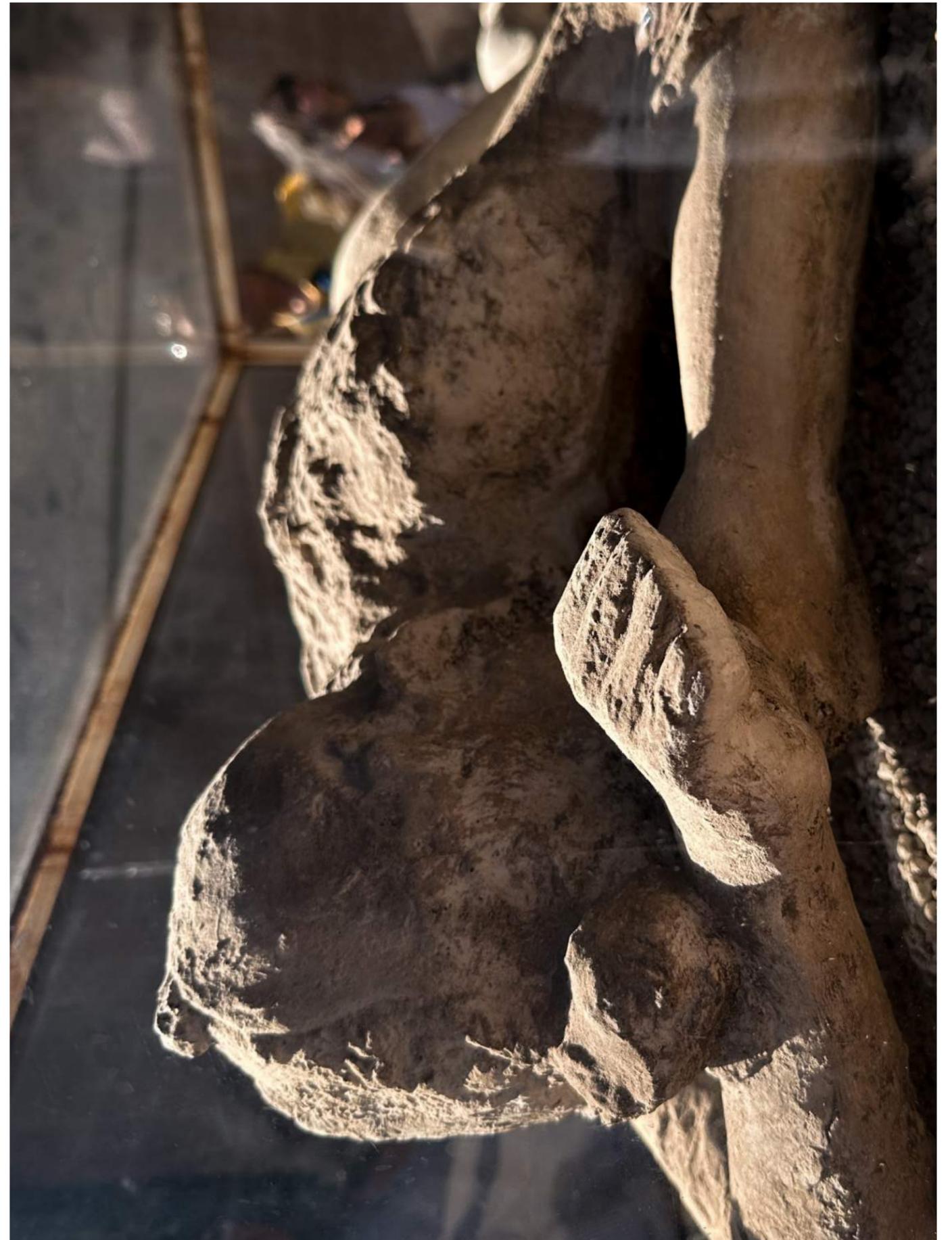


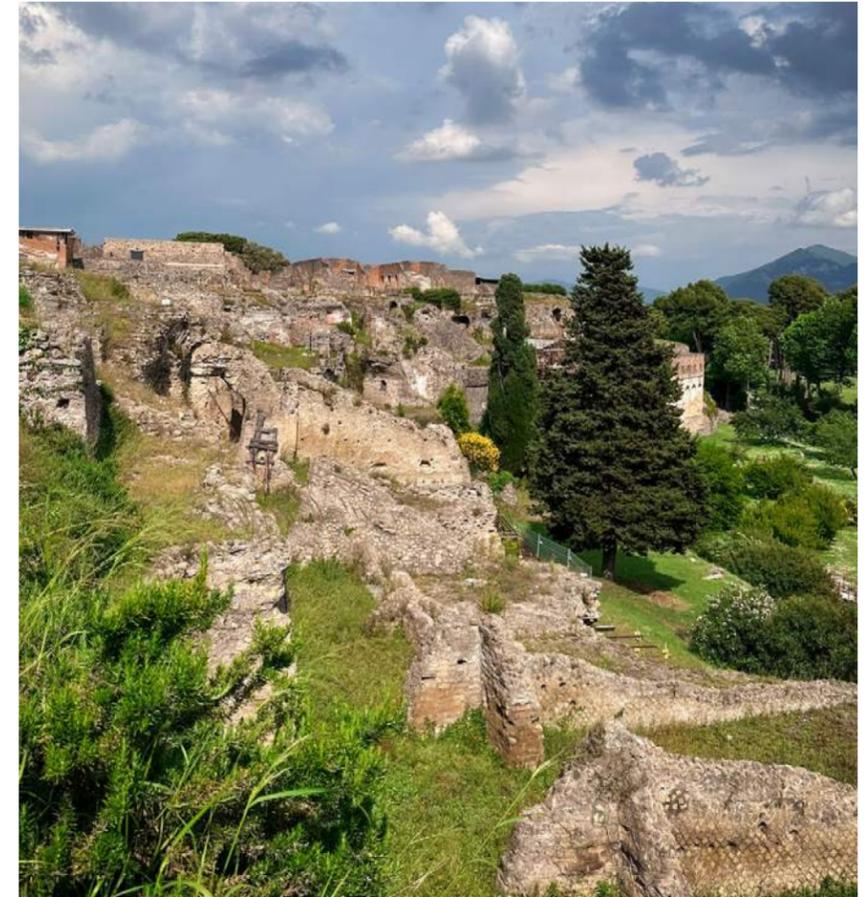


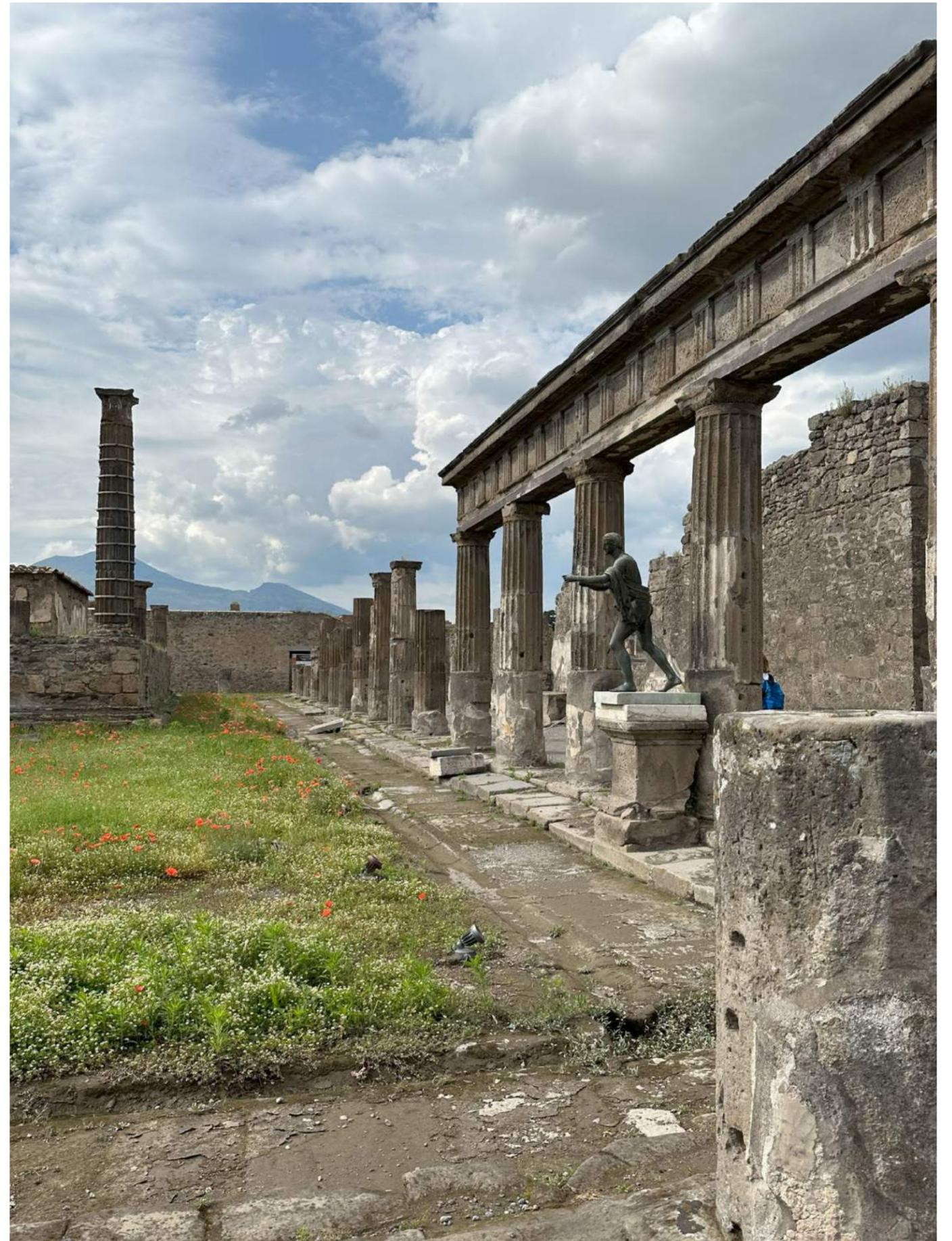
Pompeii

From class, I remember several lectures centered around the infamous city that met its demise at the hands of a volcano. The most humanizing part of Pompeii was seeing the casts of victims as they final moment are now forever set in stone.

On a lighter note, did you know the city of Pompeii is covered in penises? I didn't till I got there - they left that part out in class.

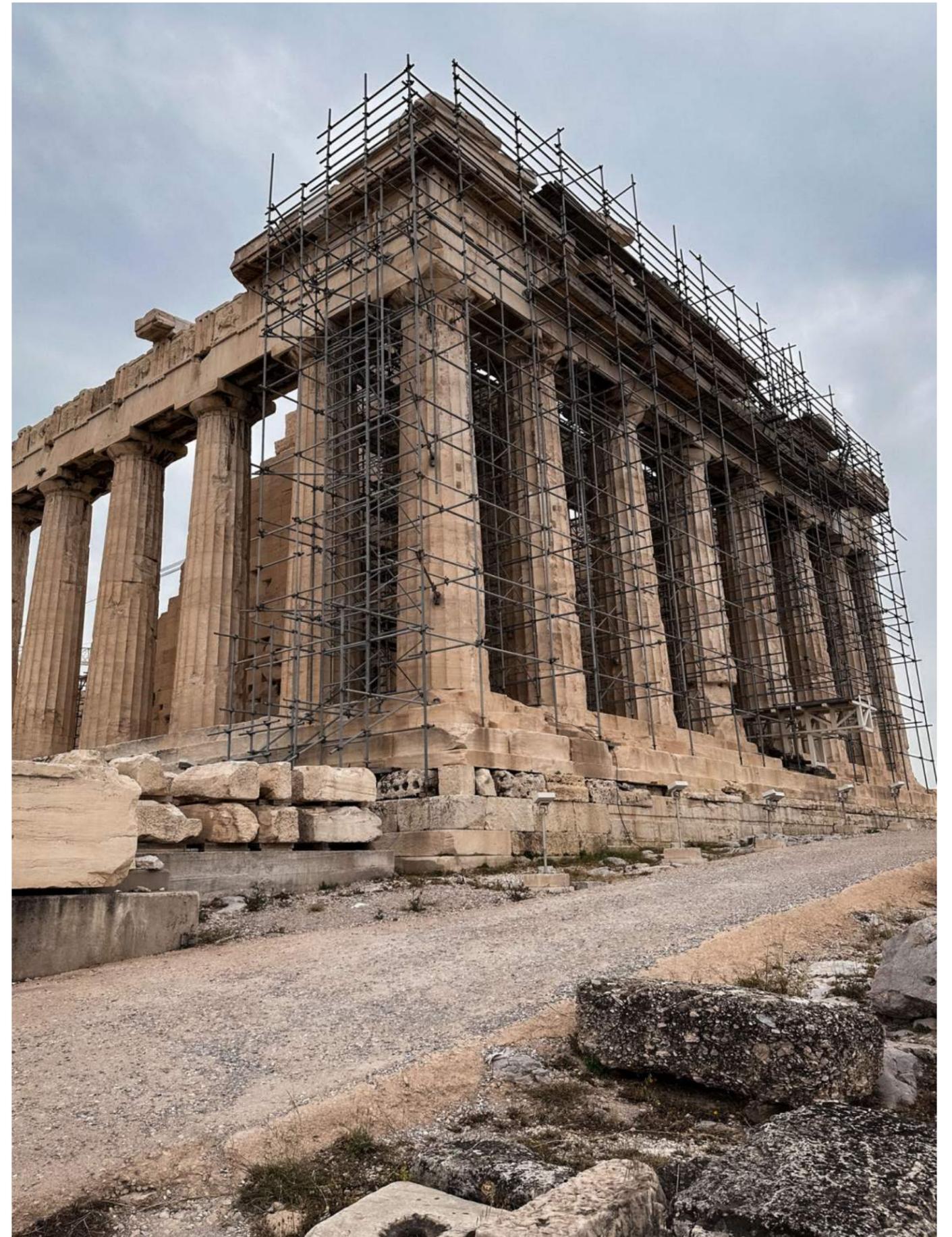


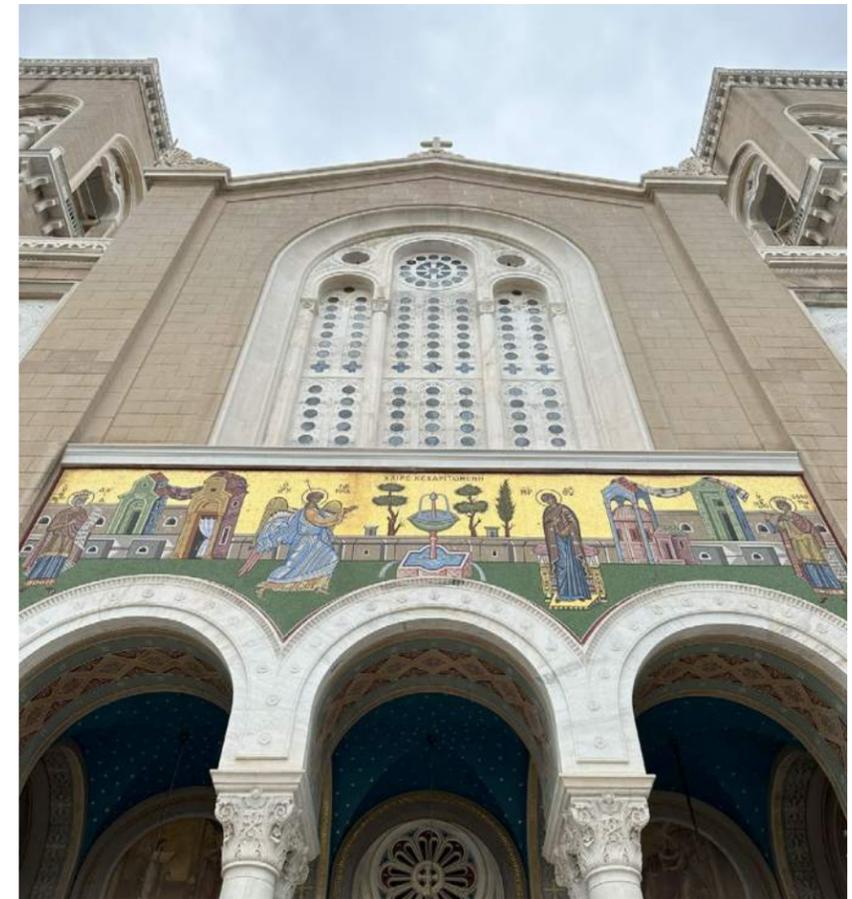
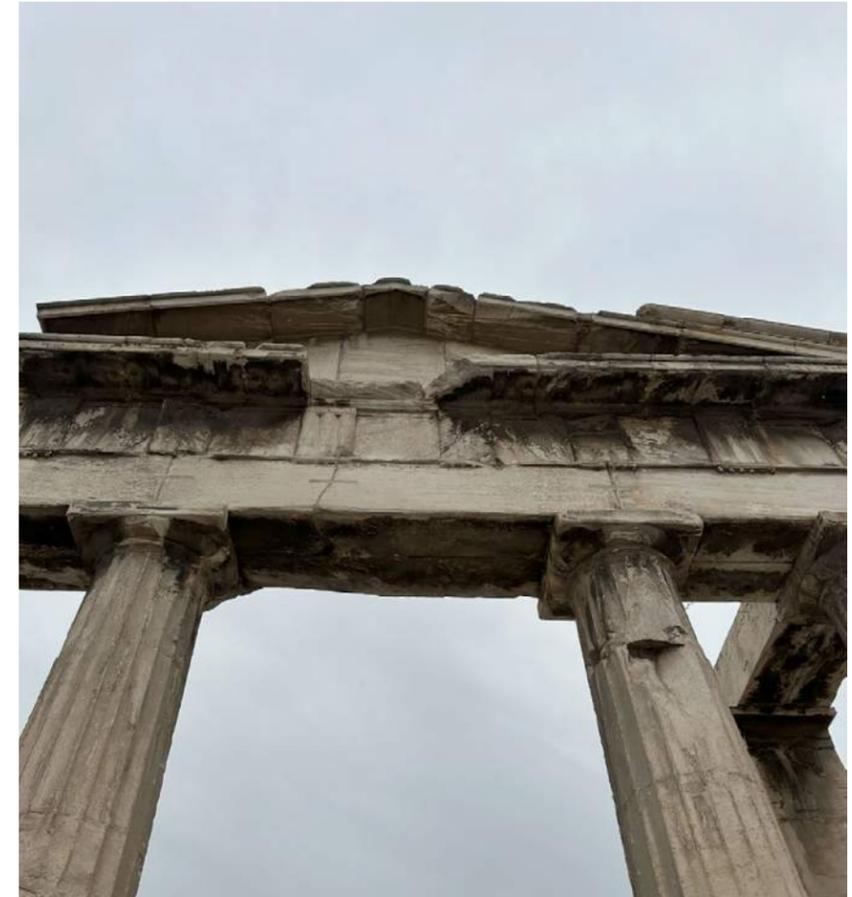




Athens

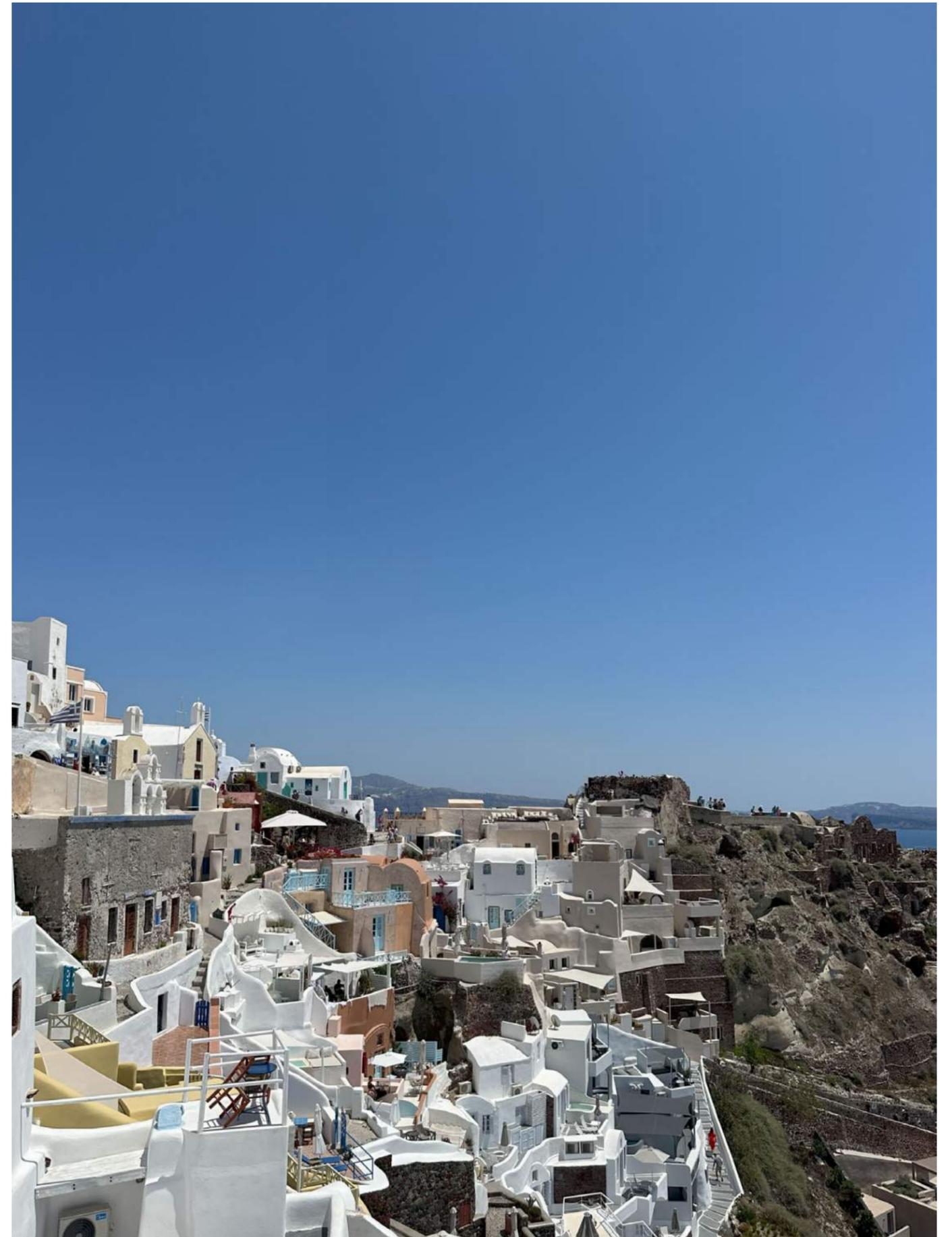
Greece had the best food of my trip by far. Everything i ate was so tasteful and enjoyable. I fell in love with the food here and I would go back just to eat there again.





Santorini

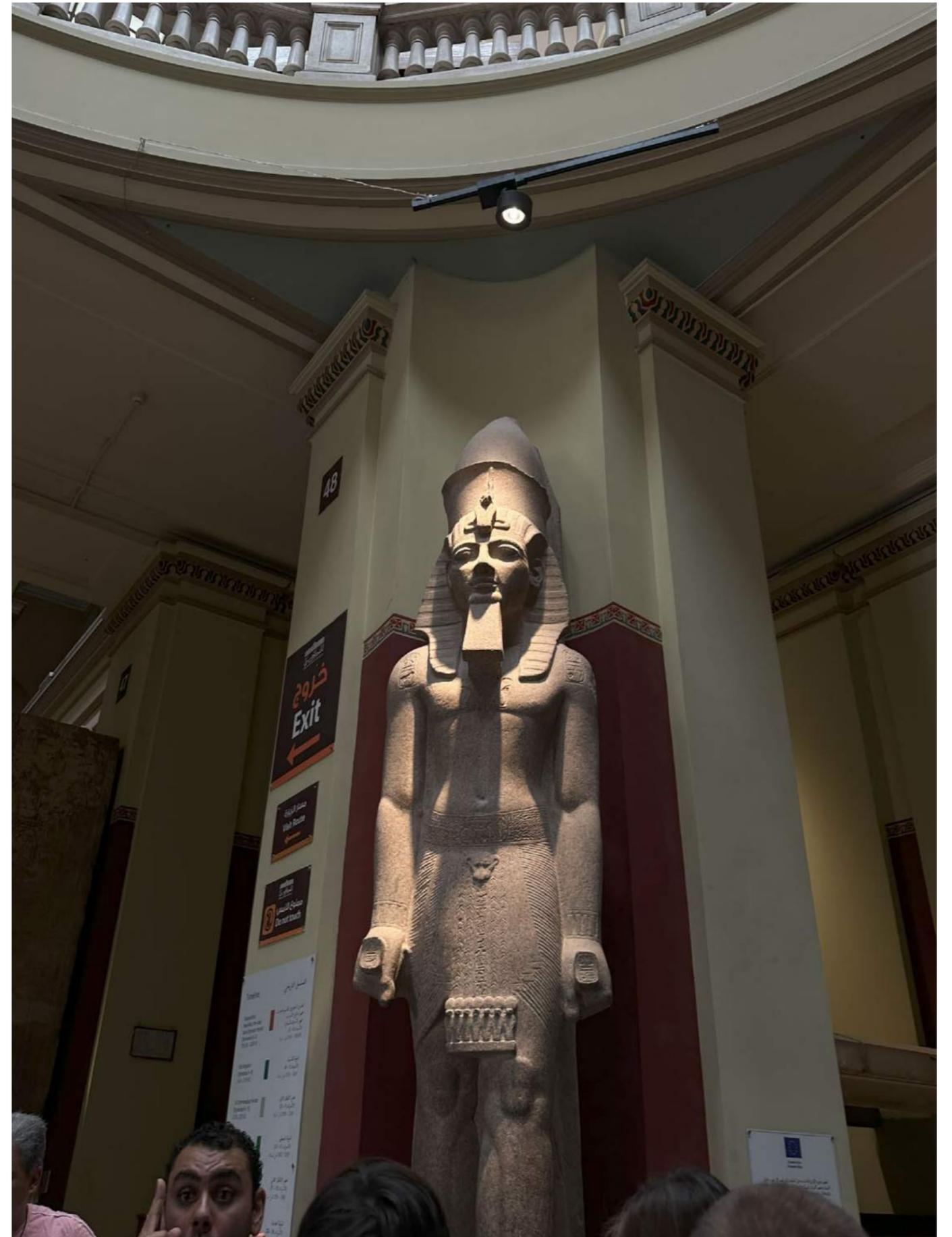
Late one night I sat outside. It was a brisk night with no clouds in the sky as the moon was shown in full brightness. It was eerily quiet with only the waves of the ocean crashing along the rocky shore to fill the air. I sat there and enjoyed the light reflections against the bright white buildings while the small lights cascaded down the island. It was stunning and so peaceful.

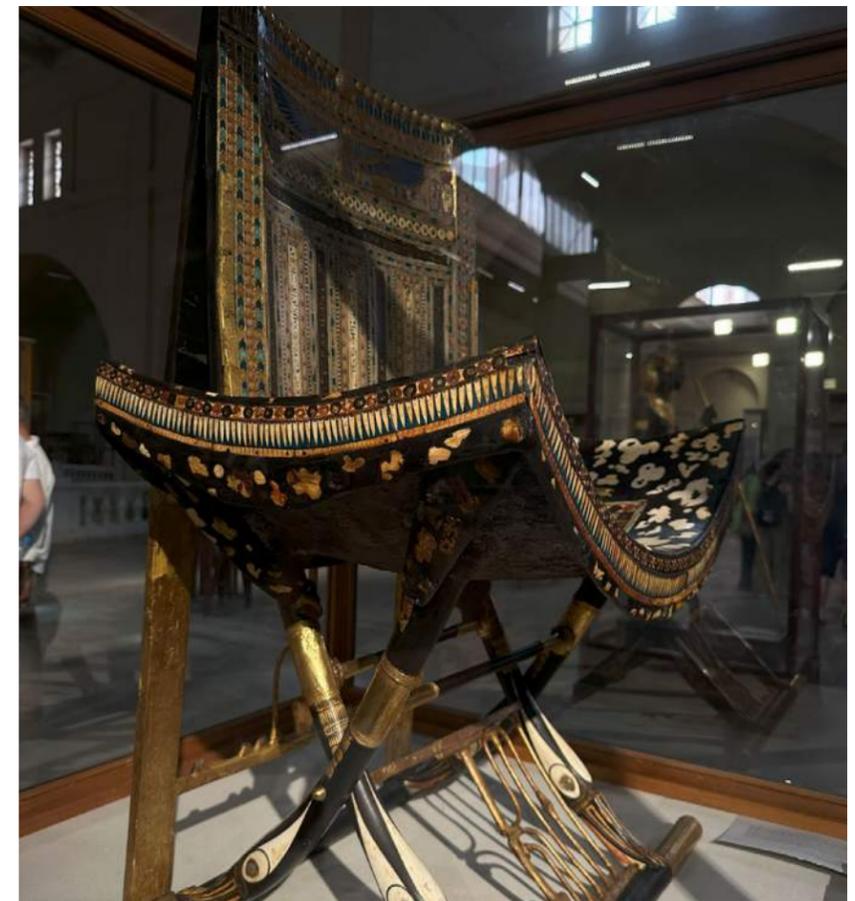


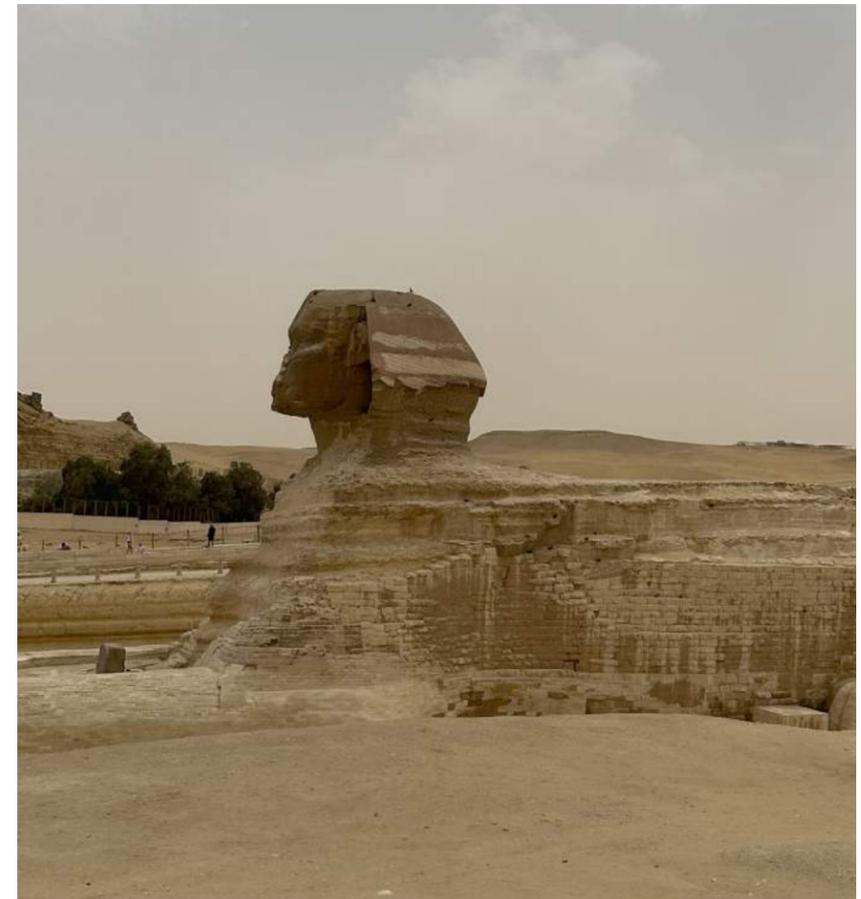


Cairo

Different. That word is an understatement for the city of Cairo compared to anything I had ever seen before. It was like a city stacked onto another city that was so incredibly dense that the urban landscape looked like something from a dream in the plane.

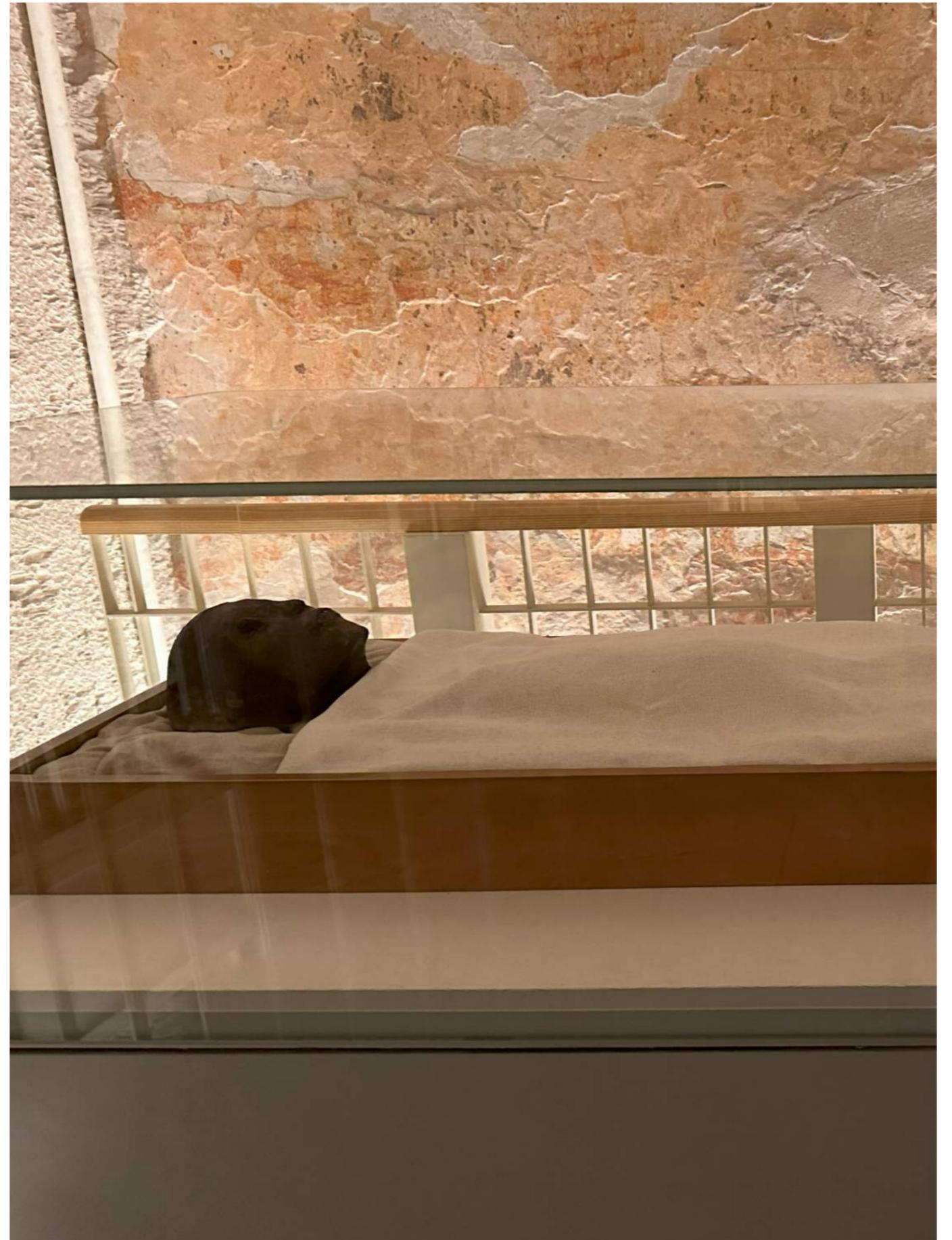




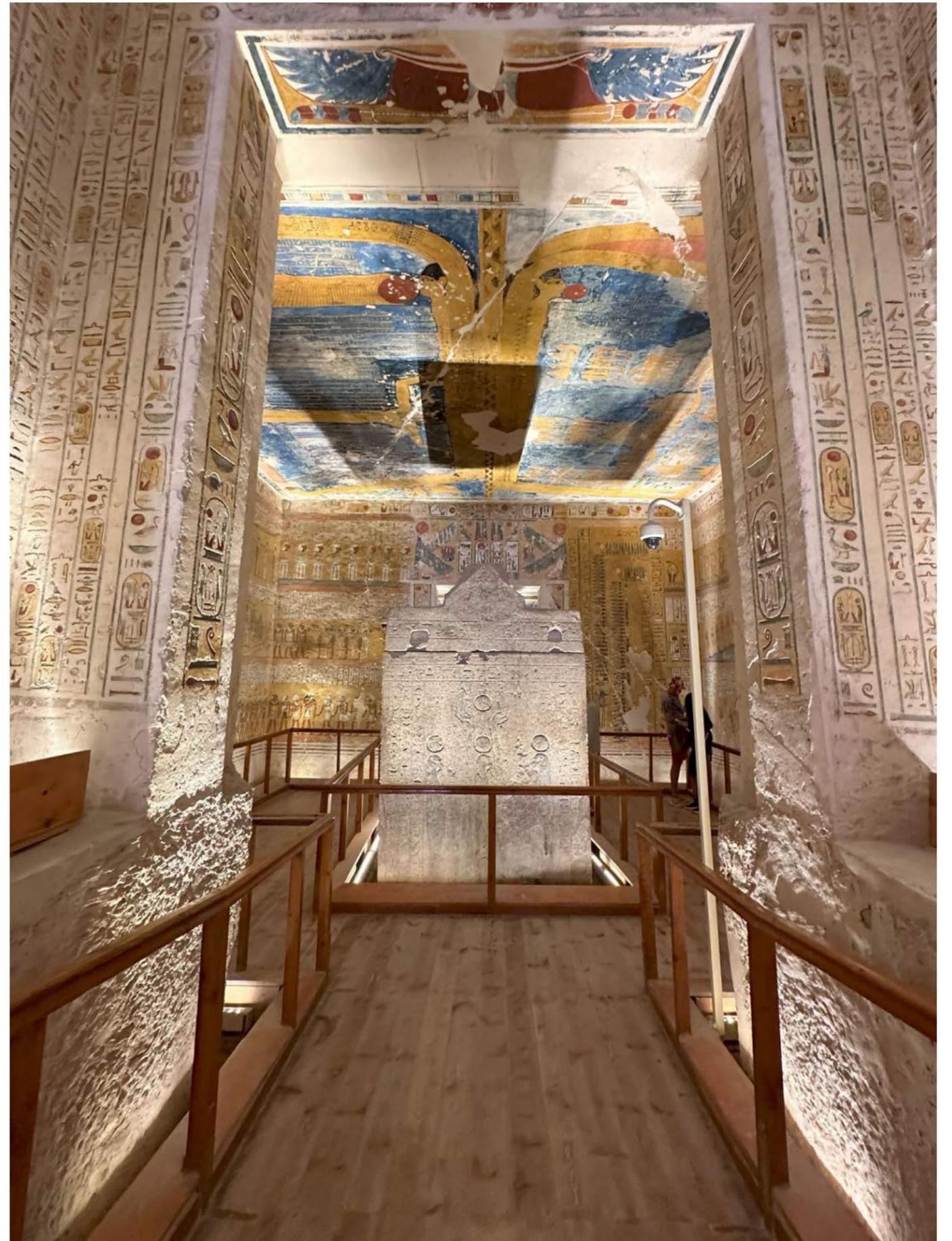


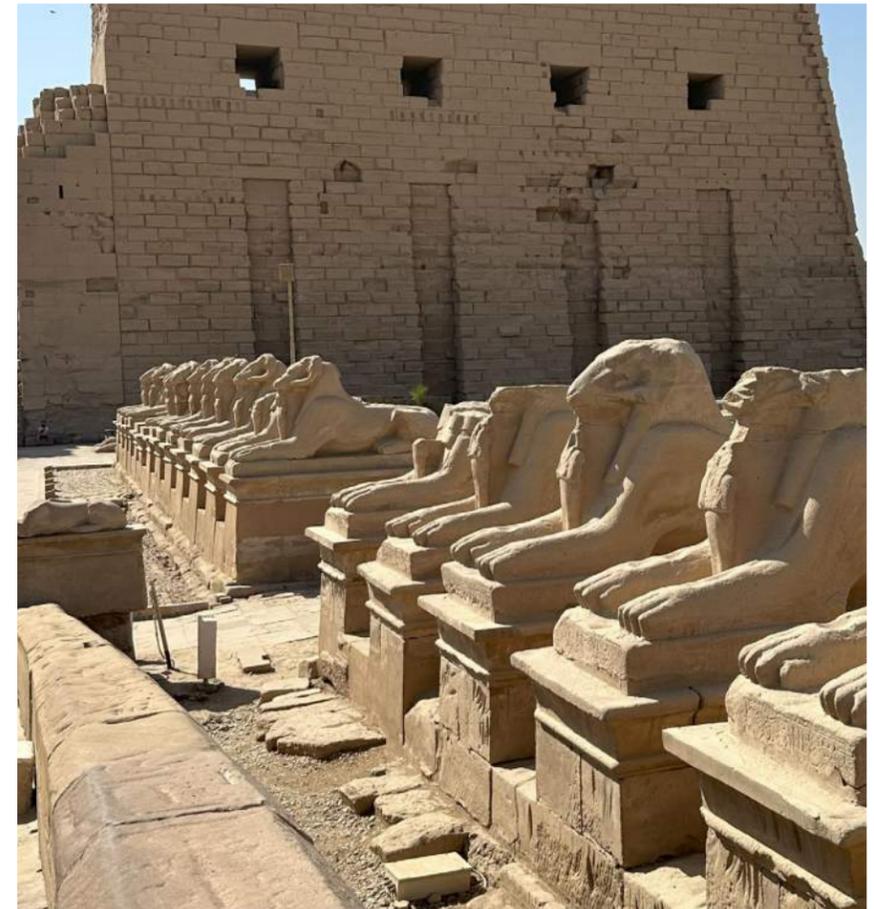
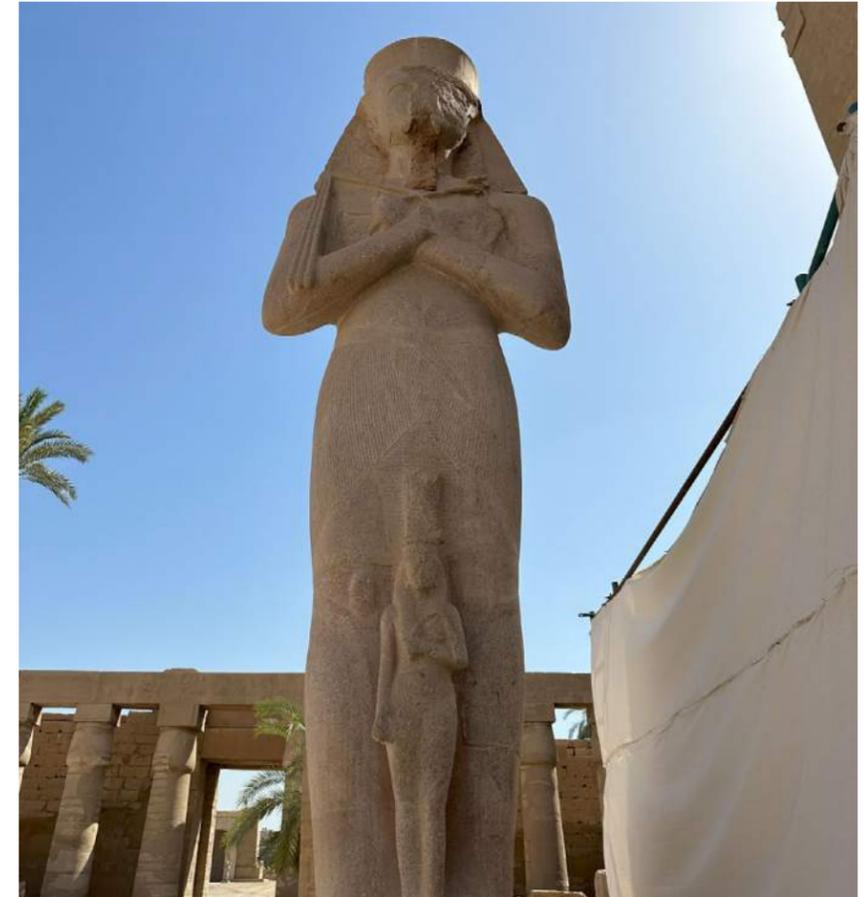
Luxor

It is odd to think I traveled half way around to world to see graves of people that have been dead for thousands of years. And yet, with some luck, I was able to see the mummy of King Tut. He is often on tour for other museums, but I was lucky, because he was inside his tomb in the valley of the kings.









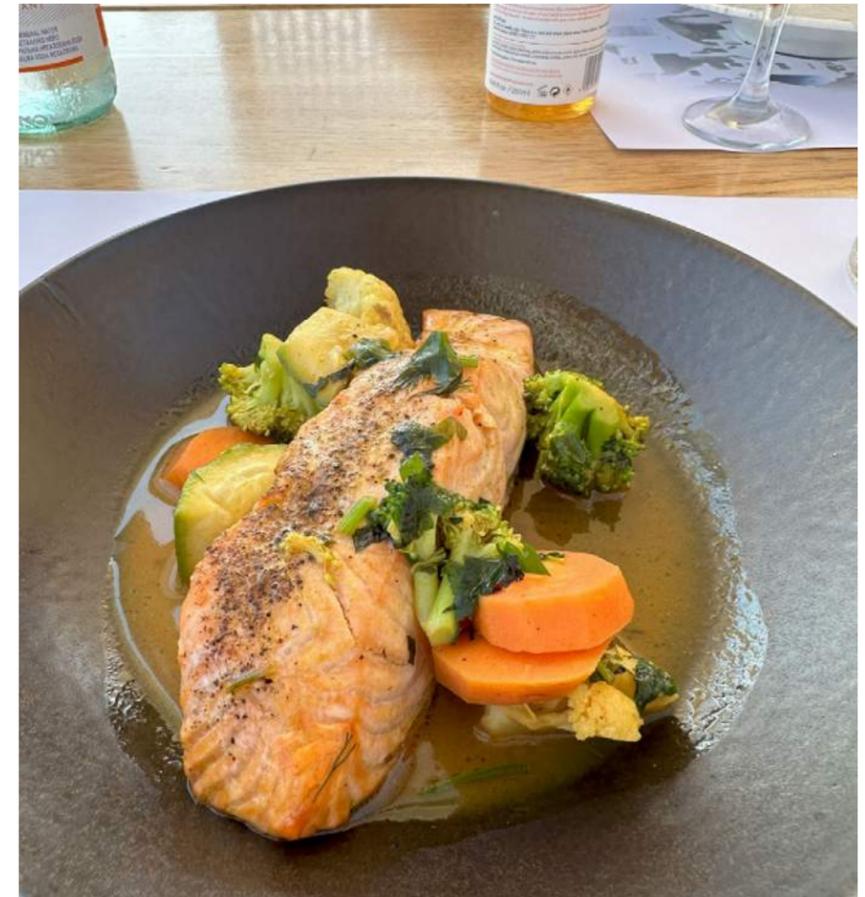


Food

What more can I say than yum!



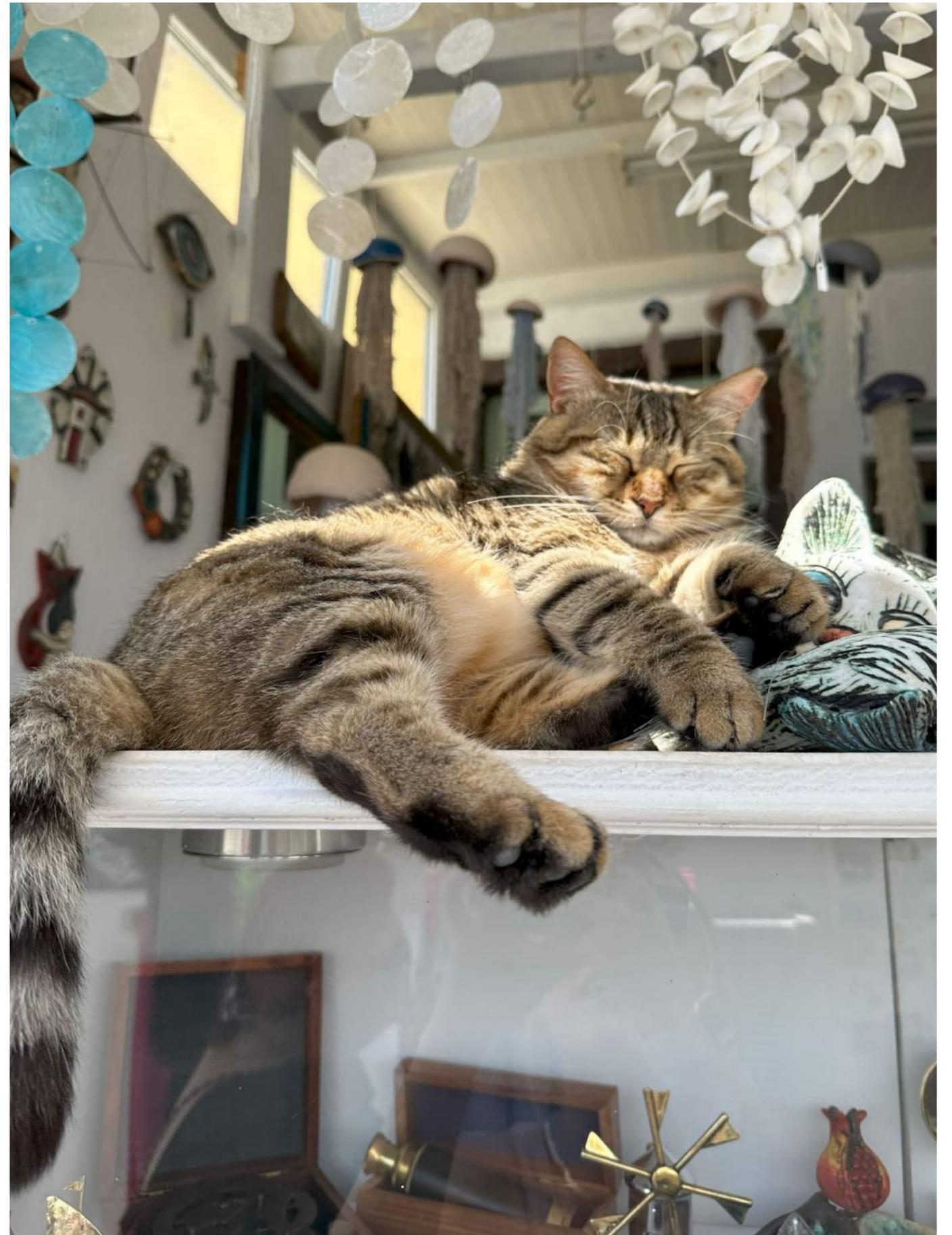






Cats... and more

I enjoy the local pets as well.







The End:

To anyone reading this, I would like to thank you for your time, interest, and your consideration in being awarded. It was incredibly fulfilling to be awarded for not only my work, but for a travel statement that spoke to so many of you.

Before 2022, I had never even step foot out of the country, and now I have been to 17 countries, many of which came apart of that list because of the fellowship. I stepped foot on to Africa for the first time in my life because of this award.

I can never thank you all enough for this amazing opportunity and being able to work with me on my travel constraints. Several months ago, I thought I was going to lose this opportunity because of financial obligation on my end with things like rent and a car payment. Because you all were willing to work with me, I was still able to travel and for that you have my greatest gratitude.

Thank you. Truly.