

The experience that was the most important turning point in my life.

For most of us, our parents are our guardians, providers, and teachers. My parents are _____ and _____. Like most parents, they listen to my problems, provide for me, and guide me through life, teaching rights and wrongs. They came from the Philippines, where I too was born and raised, and they are both in their late 40s and 50s. Both my parents have made many sacrifices for the sake of our family. My father worked hard to provide for his family for most of his life. My mother has also worked, but she also makes sure the rest of the family is well taken care of. They are hard-working, good-willed, and tenacious. That is why my parents are the strongest individuals in my life.

In my early childhood, my father was always working. Despite having a degree in mechanical engineering he's had many other jobs. He had been a construction worker, maintenance worker, and a driver, just to name a few. He would take any job he found suitable, so that he could support his family. Back then, he was always gone from home, away at work. He always made sure that his kids would see that he is happy with a smile and play with us, despite having just come back from work. For a time, he worked abroad to help family needs. Like my father, my mother is also very hardworking. She has worked in multiple jobs, but she also took it upon herself to take care of the rest of the family. After my birth, I fell ill constantly and my mother developed asthma. However, this did not stop her from taking good care of her children. Unfortunately, she still has asthma to this day. When my father was abroad, my mother, by herself, took care of my sister and I. That was the first time one member of our family was separated, but my mother assured us that everything would be alright. Years later, my father came back home to take my siblings and I with him to Guam, then years later my mother came to

reunite with our family. My mother is a very helpful, caring, and loving individual. She is the most influential person in my life.

There were many hardships that my family has endured, especially my parents. My father, although he is strong, has a history of chronic medical problems. Some of these occurred while he was working. My father, even though he suffered from all these incidents, still worked for many years. Many of the doctors have said that my father is very lucky that none of these incidents led to a worse fate. Later on, my father was advised to stop working because it is detrimental for his health. My father still was strong, that is what he told us, but the doctors knew better. If my father was to continue pushing himself, his physical health would further deteriorate. My father probably did not want us to worry. But because all of us were concerned, he had to retire due to physical health. He soon retired after my baby brother was born.

Eventually, my family became older. After getting my license, some things started to change. I was given more freedom and at the same time, more responsibility. Many times I was tasked with driving to the store to buy groceries, and sometimes, I was required to drive my younger siblings to school or to an event. I also got a job the same year I got my license. Later on, my family would rely on me for transportation, mainly my siblings and my mother. I would regularly take my parents together to their doctor's appointments. My dad, however, sometimes goes by himself. I would drive my parents to the clinic or hospital if it's urgent, such as my mother's asthma. It has become a regular routine for me to take my family to their appointments and doctors, not just for my parents but siblings too.

As time went on, my parent's doctor visits became more and more frequent. I've been doing this with my parents for a long time. I observed that my parents are getting noticeably older, and they continue to become weaker. Although they are still the same person that they

used to be, they are older and more frail. I soon realized that my parents, the people that I've always thought to be the strongest people in my life, would be gone someday. I've been told that people are amazingly strong when it comes to losing someone. For a time, I had many thoughts and fears about losing my parents. But as I grew, I understood that I'm also getting older. Both my parents reassured us that they'll still be around for a long time and that their health problems are just minor disruptions. It's no surprise that my parents will sometimes be needing help from now on. I'm glad to be helping them.

Even though my parents have worked hard and got our family out of poverty, they didn't leave much for themselves. They moved to a different country while raising 4 children, everything they worked for was mostly for their children. Because of that, my siblings and I live completely different lives from what our parents did. From what I heard, my parents' lives were significantly harder, and they worked hard to move our family away from that situation. When my father stopped working, I offered to help pay the bills with the money I got from my old job. But my parents insisted that I keep it and that I'm still young so I should enjoy what I have. I love my parents. In return for all the things they have done for me, I would like to take care of my parents. It would not be a burden to me but a blessing.