**Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.**

“Do you want to go for a walk?” I asked an unfamiliar face. I wanted to continuously slam my head against a metal door as I said this. The pandemic struck me like a truck as it shackled my social skills just as I entered a new dimensional plane. Two dreadful years of not being able to connect with anyone in my environment. As the pandemic ended, normality was restored and I was dragged out of bed, fresh from a COVID infection, excruciatingly labored to go to physical school for the first time in what felt like an endless cycle.

The day had finally come, the one thing that I hoped would never come to fruition finally caught up and pounced on me. I knew nobody and nobody knew me, I fear being alone the most yet I still put myself in this position. Sometimes in life, we find ourselves caught in a tangled web, much like a spider ensnared in its own creation. It was already midday yet I still have had no progress in conversing with a classmate.

“Sure, I would love to.” He responded to my request. It was the most awkward, cringey and gut wrenching minutes of my life. We talked about our goals and prospects in this fruitful existence of ours.

His name is Edzel, he was a new student and whilst I was already in this school for 2 years, I felt as if we were in the same shoes. This small stroll in the school sparked the confidence inside me to talk to people. After a couple of weeks I was already comfortable at this new school conversing with new people daily.

At first, I had a better grasp of all the studies we shared with each other. He kept asking me for help and due to my superiority complex I helped him as it continued to feed my endless void of an ego.

Quickly, this happiness and friendship turned into regret and envy. My desire and hunger to be the best would slowly take over, slowly starting to cause my downfall. Edzel would overtake me in every subject; beating me not only in grades but also how he was able to seamlessly fit in a community and this created a bitter spot in our friendship. Being egotistical I said “He’s just lucky and I'm getting unlucky”.

Slowly, my grades and social life was slowly crumbling under my big ego. Edzel had always been supportive of me and always motivated me to keep going. He was the only pillar to my crumbling life, yet I always treated him as someone beneath me and even then I can't help but feel envy towards him. This tore a huge rift in my mind.

Friends like these are really hard to come by and I was on the verge of throwing it all out the window. The thoughts of “He is always supporting me yet I always prey on his downfall” roamed throughout my domain of reasoning.

I let my ego go, suppressed my envy. All my friends always wished the best for me so what reason do I have to wish bad upon them regardless if they did better or worse than me. With this mindset, I was inspired to share the same kindness,support and appreciation towards everyone. I realized that there are some things others had that I didn't, but I also had some things that most people don't have whether that was in our personal lives or school life, I realized that I should be more grateful for what I already have. I was motivated to begin teaching and helping other people if they had problems, able to open up to a bigger community as you can never achieve anything alone. Most importantly I learned to let go of my ego while keeping my hunger to be the best.