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FIYS

Overestimating Skills

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Overestimating Skills

The Roman deity Minerva represents techne, skilled crafts. These crafts, such as sewing or other work-intensive crafts, are something that I enjoy. While I enjoy them, I am also often quick to overestimate my skills and throw myself into a project that I do not have the ability to complete.

My grandmother, on my mom’s side, taught me to sew and bake when I was little and started my passion for crafts. She also passed on her confidence to try projects beyond my current ability. One of the first things we made together was a full-length skirt. In general, full garments are not a great place to start but a skirt is just a circle of fabric so it did not seem like it would be that hard. It turned out alright, a bit frumpy maybe but it was a functional garment. Our overconfidence continued and we decided that we should add pockets. We ended up attaching them way too low, close to my knees, and tore the skirt trying to remove them to fix it. I never did wear that skirt, but it was fun to make, and I loved spending time with my grandmother. The next sewing project we did together was making stuffed animals from a kit. A much more beginner-appropriate task. Most of the sewing projects I do now are simple fixes or for Halloween costumes. I hope that I will be more successful next time I try to make a full garment.

My most recent overestimation was in jewelry making. I have had a pair of beads that I meant to turn into earrings sitting in my jewelry box for a while. Over Thanksgiving break my mother dug up some of her old jewelry-making supplies so I could finally make the beads into earrings. I made some very simple dangly earrings. I am proud of them and think they look quite nice, but they are very simple. I immediately started planning what more complicated things I could make with my newfound skills. I went to Micheal’s and got some more beads, jewelry wire, and earring posts. I then spent hours, over a few days, fiddling with the beads and wire to try and create the earrings that I had envisioned. Micheal’s may have not been the best place to get the beads and I ended up shattering quite a few of them. I was unfortunately unsuccessful, but all the materials are at home waiting for me to try again. I just need to simplify some designs and get some better beads.

I am not one to give up once I have started something, even if it is beyond my current ability. I jump into the deep end and use that to teach me what my current ability is and work back up. Knowing your limits is very important but you will never know your limits if you do not try to go beyond them. Crafts are a fun and simple thing to push the limits on because they can be easy to adjust to fit within the limits. Most of my experiences, whether I succeeded or failed, were learning experiences that I enjoyed having.