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

Max words: 650

605

I remember vividly around a year ago, one day on a snack break, I got called by my mom into her room. I was on my phone when I went in because it seemed like my mom was just going to talk about something small, so I was not really paying attention—until she said that her and my father’s relationship wasn’t working out. She didn't think that she deserved to be with my father due to the contrast in her financial background, and felt like she wasn’t good enough as a mother. It really broke me especially when she said that while sobbing, as I was shocked by how my mother thinks about herself.

Later that day, she told me that my brothers and I should go visit my dad while she stayed at home. My youngest brother was about 3 years old, and for him to be separated from her was hard—seeing a kid crying hysterically for his mom was something, especially when both were people I really cared for. Despite the heartbreaking situation, I went with all my brothers to my dad, who moved into an apartment he bought a few years back.

Without my mother, I started to notice that those few days are some of the most tiring times as I realized the key role she was actually playing in my family. Those few days of separation were filled with contemplation about how I’d been so tough with my mother despite her being a hard working housewife taking care of her 4 sons. I felt like I’d been so disrespectful to my mother, distancing myself from her and having an overall bad relationship with her, not appreciating anything she had done for me and the family. I learned how crucial relationships are, and how we often take those with important roles in our lives for granted.

Fortunately, the separation only lasted a few days as my mom went to the apartment and came to a mutual understanding with my father, finally being able to live together again. With my mother’s return, I was able to have a second chance at being a better son, acknowledging her effort to take care of her children and the house. For instance, recently, I’ve been really demotivated by the absence of purpose in my life. When I express my struggles to my mother instead of channeling my stress and anger to her, she comforts me by sharing her own experiences and advising me to be able to get through the stage of life I’m experiencing. I now have a healthier relationship with my mother, someone to share my struggles and obstacles with, whereas before I would probably just keep it to myself.

This experience has changed me by developing empathy towards others, not just to my mother. Not wanting what happened to her to happen to my siblings, I now feel like I’m more self-aware regarding my words and actions to them as well, ensuring that I wouldn’t unintentionally hurt them. This is because I believe that my relationships with my siblings are very important. It’s essential that I cherish and maintain my relationships with people I love. Now, I’ll always try to show my appreciation both through explicitly saying it to the person and by helping them through tough times.