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

Max words: 650

I remember vividly around a year ago, on a snack break one day I got called by my mom into her room. I was on my phone when I went in because it seems like my mom is just going to talk about something small, so I was not really paying attention -- until she said that her and my dad’s relationship isn’t working out at the moment. She didn't think that she deserves to be with my father due to the contrast in her financial background, and felt like she isn’t good enough as a mother. It really breaks me especially when she said that while sobbing, causing my eyes to tear for the first time in years. A while later that day, she told me that my brothers and I should go visit my dad while she stays at home. My youngest brother is about 3 years old, and to be separated was hard - seeing a kid crying hysterically for his mom was something, especially when both people are someone I really cared for. Despite the heartbreaking situation I followed what my mom told me to do and went with all my brothers to my dad, and moved into an apartment he bought a few years back.

Fortunately, the separation only lasted a few days as my mom went to the apartment and came to a mutual understanding with my father, hence being able to get and live together again. Although I was only separated from my mother for a few days, those few days are some of the most tiring times as I’ve realized the key role my mother is actually playing in my family. Therefore, those few days of separation were filled with contemplation about how I’ve been so tough with my mother despite her being a very hard working housewife taking care of her 4 sons, and myself on the other hand, taking those things for granted.

With my mother’s return, I’m able to have a second chance at being a better son, thankful about the existence of my mother and how great she is. Acknowledging her effort to take care of her children and the house, I now have a healthier relationship with my mother, opening up about my life and obstacles. For instance, recently, I’ve been really demotivated by the absence of purpose in my life. Then my mother comforted me by sharing her own experiences and advice to be able to get through the stage of life I’m experiencing, which is really helpful as now I’m able to have someone to share my struggles with.

This experience has changed me in developing empathy towards others, not just to my mother. Not wanting what happened to my mother to happen to my friends, I now feel like I’m more self-aware regarding my words and actions to my friends as well, ensuring that I wouldn’t unintentionally hurt them. This is because I believe that my relationships with my friends are very important. One of the most common scenarios I stumble upon is when my friend is unconfident with their results on an exam, this usually leaves them feeling down. Not wanting them to feel bad about themselves, I always try to comfort them by ensuring that they know that they’ve tried their best and are still able to improve for future exams. Therefore, allowing them to not lose hope and stay confident.

Through this experience, I’ve learned how crucial relationships are, as we often take those with important roles in our lives for granted. In my case, I was being very selfish and which has ultimately resulted in my mother’s separation. This has taught me that it’s key that we cherish and maintain our relationships with our loved one's, especially those who are responsible for our well being as a human.