My Search for Greatness

by: august r tabucanon

February 26, 2009

All my life I dreamed of living up to expectations inscribed in my God-given name, “August,” an adjective, meaning majestic, grand, kingly, and noble. I was named after St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, famous philosopher and one of the Doctors of the Catholic Church. My mother read “The Confessions” of St. Augustine when I was in the womb. Having been named after a great man, one of my interests is to know how to become a great man myself.

There are many fields of study to choose from. I was confused. I prayed day and night hoping to discover what God wanted me to be. I read the lives of the founder of the world’s religions and their teachings; like Buddha, Jesus Christ, and Baha’u’llah. I also read the lives and works of other great men in history. But I also love math, chess and computer games like DOTA, Star Craft and Counter Strike. I appreciate Bobby Fischer, the greatest chess player in history. I view my life as a game of chess and wanted to make the right moves. I appreciate John Nash Jr., a mathematician and a Nobel Prize winner in economics in 1994, despite being a schizophrenic. I did my best in solving math problems and shared my solutions to others. I took-up computer science because of math. My Computer Science teachers and classmates discovered that I have huge potential. They advised me, as well as family and friends not to quit.

I asked God to show me everything I need to know and improve about myself. I promised to change myself for Him no matter how hard it is to change my attitude. It was a very painful moment to know the truth about myself. I felt immobilized for a while and all that I could do is to play DOTA, as I mastered the strategy of that game, I felt happy that for once in my life I am a hero. I then asked myself: “Would you be just a hero in that game or be a hero in real life and start to live your dreams?” I started to make little programs and made a game program called “snakes and ladders.” I dreamt of making a game program and it came true. I felt happy. On August 24, 2008, the night before my 21st birthday, I had a talk with an American from San Diego, California. He has a friend at the US department of defense in the Pentagon whose job is to protect important information from hackers. It’s called “computer security,” a complex and exciting topic in computer science. Maybe I can make a program protecting software from hackers! That conversation was priceless. I was inspired to move on. In order to link math and computer science, I read the history of Computers. The life of Blasé Pascal, inventor of the adding machine, and Gottfried Wilhelm Von Leibniz (libe-nits) the man who devised a system of gears that can multiply as well as add. I am convinced that Computers is math, that if I’m good at math, I will be good in Computers. I will make programs that are easy to use for others, just as Bill Gates and the Microsoft Corporation did! I then faced my problem of interacting with the outside world and with the help of family and friends, I am slowly beginning to open-up my thoughts and feelings to others. I also learned to be kind. I learned to appreciate my talents in math and CS, and the origin of my name, and I also learned to appreciate others.

In order to fulfill my dreams, I must be kind, appreciative, and simplify my thoughts and ideas in math, Computers and in simple conversations to make computer programs. I am happy to know that I am made to be a programmer. I welcome the challenge of living my dreams. Thank you and mabuhay!