

Life is a Climb

Life twists and turns and no two bends are ever the same. We learn primarily from the journey; our destination is the finale. It is not the obstacles we face that define us, but rather our capability to overcome them. The end result provides us with a distinctive personal trait. In my seventeen years, I have encountered a number of people who have influenced and molded me. However, a name that always stands out is Tsedale Degefu, my beloved grandmother.

I was born and raised in Ethiopia by my grandmother. She was a humble, strong and very inspiring woman from the countryside. Due to the country's poverty, schooling was not part of her life, thus she had great passion for education. She always emphasized with me with the values of knowledge. She had an admirable patience which inspired me to imply it in my daily life.

My grandma stressed the importance of courage. The main lesson I learned, was that one has to be prepared for any unexpected hardship. After climbing a hill, there may be a mountain to conquer. In reality, there are challenging moments which defy the pattern of life. I have come to realize that an obstacle is not a hindrance for our achievements or concrete goals, but rather an abrupt opportunity to strengthen ourselves.

About four years ago, my father won the Diversity Visa, hence my ticket to the U.S. I only have her memory to sustain me. My grandmother sparked my curiosity but my aspiration here in the U.S continued to develop. Emerging into a modern life is one factor besides education. My curiosity for the new aspects of life keeps me ambitious. I truly owe the root of this development to her fruitful advice. She sometimes didn't give an explanation to my questions, which I have come to realize that she was trying to help me find the answers by myself through time.

The old courageous woman with the silky gray hair was the key for my success. To fulfill a certain goal, one has to be inspired by an initiative force. When curiosity develops, the road to knowledge will be wide open. On the road to success, there may be a barrier. To tackle all sorts of challenges, one has to be patient and prepared with endurance. The present conditions do not determine one's goal, but merely one's start.