

Life as a daughter of the Koh family ☺

Hello! I am 19 turning 20 and I cannot believe that I am turning 20!!! (Sam, introduce name!!) But anyway, the past 19 years of my life as a daughter of this Koh family has been really wonderful, and I am very grateful to God and to my parents for everything they have done for me. My parents have always been there for me, guiding me and teaching me (politically correct answer, mm...). I am particularly thankful that in recent years I am able to talk to my parents about almost everything under the sky, about my daily rants, about issues I think about, about my spiritual walk -- even though sometimes I get carried away and just keep going on and on, but they're always listening (most of the time ;p). (We confirm. She CAN TALK!) I am also very thankful for their assurance that I can go to them for anything, that they will always embrace me because I am their daughter (Princess!).

As I grow older, I begin to truly understand what family means. Family is people who will always be there for you, who will accept you for who you are, who you can always trust, and the list goes on! Sometimes I think my parents know me better than I know myself, seeing how they have seen me grow up and go through all the different phases of my life (Of course! But cannot always get you to obey ☺). I think I am fortunate in that my mum is a homemaker and was always there to receive me from school. Who would have thought that the first person I would cry to when I first broke up was to my mum? (Mummy's pet, daddy's brat) A parent's shoulder and embrace is still more heart-warming than any other on earth.

Of course, we are not perfect people and we have our differences, resulting in clashes and arguments here and there, and sometimes unkind words are exchanged (So when will you come home for dinner?). There were times when I felt that my parents might have been 'stricter' as compared to other parents, especially when younger, we tend to compare what we have or what we're allowed to do with our friends! But on hindsight, these restrictions were generally for my good as they taught me certain values, showed me the wisdom of my parents, taught me to come under authority, and also brought us closer as a family (Whew!). I am very glad that my parents never gave up on me, never let me go and always continued to teach and mould me (even if the process is a slightly painful one - for them and for me) to become a fine lady after God's own heart (of course, the process is far from complete).

Now that I am going to Australia, I remember my dad saying that he would drop everything and fly over if need be, and this really touched me because I know how much they love me despite their naggings here and there (This we will do -- nag and fly there ☺). I am sure that there are many times when they have gone out of their way to do things for me, to be there for me, and I have taken it for granted because I did not know the trouble they went to or the struggles they might have had. I don't think I can ever fully understand or appreciate the extent that my parents have gone to show their love for me, but I still feel very blessed because they love me.

Every parent is different and has his own parenting style, and the transition and letting go a child from being a child to being an adult is, I think, a very crucial stage in every parent-child relationship. It is not easy for any parent to let go, and to slowly redraw the boundaries of a child, and I am sure it is difficult for both parent and child to strike a certain balance as this transition takes place. However, I think it is always important to keep an open communication channel throughout these changes, and I am glad that my parents and I somewhat have this open channel, though of course there is always room for improvement. And I hope that even as an adult, we can continue to communicate and share a close parent-child relationship, because family is people who matters (or should matter) a lot more than other people. (We are learning too, our dear growing girl!)

I love my family very much and I will miss them very much when I am away, learning to be independent without my parents and such. I admit that there are times when I have not been contributing to this household because I am busy with my own CCA, going out, etc so in the remaining days and when I come back, I will try to change this! I will miss our family outings, all the laughter in the house and I will miss wearing the same t-shirts with them at church camps and outing. But at least with technology, I will be able to talk to them often through Skype! ☺ I wrote all these not because anyone asked me to, but because these are my heartfelt words from the bottom of my heart ☺ I love you daddy, mummy, Josiah and Elliot! (We love you too!)

Written by Samantha, commented by Daddy