Cassandra Pua

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Mrs. Anderson

**I BELIEVE**

I believe in contentment. As a 19-year-old, I know there is much more in life still awaiting to be revealed and accomplished and I’m hoping for the best. As I am entering into my 20’s I believe that life will be more demanding than it is now, so I’ve heard. I’ve been told many times to make something of my life and its highly likely you’ve been too. Behind those words, I’m in the process of understanding just why is it so important to make something of ourselves. Most grownups will reason it’s what we do when we become adults to make something of ourselves, it’s a part of life. Nevertheless, I believe life can be lived in one’s own way of contentment for many reasons.

Contentment can be defined as happiness or satisfaction which is mostly natural for humankind. Whether it be a bad habit or a great success contentment follows. In this day and age, it seems the key to success are either or combination of money and higher education. But is contentment there when one has more riches or a prestigious educational background? I wouldn’t know but I wonder. The people I look up to include close family members, friends and teachers. I’ve always considered them as role models. Their achievements ironically leave me vulnerable than motivated. Why? I guess I imagine the process that made who they are now; the journey of challenges they’ve gone through but pursued nonetheless. I’m walking in their steps they once were in and it’s at this point I question if I am content as they were. I do know that my decisions have led me to continue this journey and I will remain patient. I’m content where I currently am.

The challenges are overwhelming I think if I should decide to pursue a number of goals whatever they maybe. This I like to call the trial and error phase. I can plan as much and accordingly but in the back of my mind the unexpected lingers. The what if’s or the unimaginable. I’ve known some experiences of others and I see contentment is longed for. Such sayings like, “When will I ever be stable?” “If only I…then I” resonates a longing. Oddly, I take these as a guide to prevent or lessen straying from my focus. I think it may seem selfish but that is where I find contentment in what I am doing to build my livelihood.

Being able to depend on myself is another way I find contentment to be able to not ask my parents for anything, sometimes. Not only do I want them to be assured that I have my head on my shoulder, but I also want to assure myself which I am finding to be really challenging. I often find myself contemplating whether I’ve done what I needed to get done, am I doing what I needed to do today not tomorrow not next year just today. Why today? Because tomorrow is its own day, and I’m much more satisfied in a day’s work than to worry about something I can’t control, time. I feel more content in that way too.

Being anxious of what the future will bring, if I’ll ever find enough riches or have a higher education from a prestigious institution I think are a distraction and it’ll only hinder my focus. Over time I hope that I’ll find my place in this world or what I am destined to become despite challenges and unforeseen circumstances. In the meantime, I find contentment from life experiences of others, contemplation and the time I have in the day.