Every Little Things I Called Life Values

(Original)

Angelina Alicia Chu

(Age 19, Malaysia)

Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

I have not thought about my values before. I honestly just thought about living life the way I wanted and dying peacefully. During my 19 years of living, there is stuff I wish I could have done or thought differently, which I decided to put as one of my values.

The values that I hold dearly are treating others the way they should be treated and not taking others for granted. I used to take people for granted until I lost them to realize my mistake. One of the examples that I can give is my grandmother. My grandmother loved me. I was her favourite niece. She would often give me food, money, and even hugs. Being the immature young me then, I always find it a bother. I am not the type to always show affection. I find it very '*cringe*' as kids these days would call it. When my grandmother was in the hospital, the thought of visiting her did not even cross my mind. She was always in and out of the hospital, so I thought she was going to get out someday. I was so dumb and immature that I even said to myself, '*even if she died, I probably won't shed even a single tear.*'

The day she left this world, she visited me in my dreams. To this day, I still remember it so vividly. There was a taxi, and she was holding her luggage. My grandfather was also there with her. She looked at me and smiled while waving her hand as if she were saying goodbye. By the time I woke up, my mother told me that we were going to our hometown and that my grandmother had already passed. On our way there, my mother was crying, my aunt was crying, and then there was me. I did not shed a single tear on our way there. I felt so numb. I thought that what I said before was true. When we arrived there, everyone was crying except me. By the time my grandmother's body arrived, the second I saw her with my own two eyes, laying there so lifeless. I broke down. I regretted everything. All the things I did and said. I regretted every single one of them. Whenever I am alone, I would

always overthink the actions I did whether it was yesterday or even a few years back. The regret still sticks with me and would occasionally haunt me. From then on, I decided to never take others for granted and treat them the way they should be treated.

To this day, I would always be grateful to those around me, even strangers. I would always try and treat them the way every human being should be treated. Although there are some downsides, especially for people who like to use others for their advantage, I still would treat them nicely with a hopeful dream in ending the vicious cycle, and so that I would not have any regret on anything that I said or done, which would let me live a peaceful life with a peaceful mind.

As for the society I hope to create, I wanted them to know that it is not okay for what they say or do to hurt others. I just hope that they could treat others the way they would want to be treated, with respect, acceptance, love, and not being too judgmental on their life choices just because they have a unique way of approaching life. If society were to live that way, I would not mind waking up every day with a positive mindset that people are not going to judge me for living the way I wanted, instead of me just thinking that I am better off dead.

Everyone is not perfect. We as human beings are bound to make mistakes, and that is honestly okay. Everyone is fighting a battle that you know nothing about, the least you can do is treat them as humans, and not as monsters.