

**Topic:** The experiences I've encountered in my life have shaped me into who I am today.

**Abstract:** My mother died when I was a little girl, I grew up with an unattached father who didn't know how to give affection, which led to a feeling of emptiness and loneliness. Luckily my God parents showed me love and gave me the values and morals I have today. Now I have kids and am fulfilling my dreams of getting an education and preparing myself for owning my own business.

**Key Words:** Parents, love, godparents, self esteem, kids, strength, dreams

### My Journey

My journey has been a little bumpy, but every experience has shaped me into the person I am today. With the help of the people that inspired me, to be a better person. For example my parents, my siblings, my god parents, my kids and others I met along the way.

My Father born and raised in Jalisco, Mexico, came into the United States at the age of 25 in search of a better life. He crossed the border illegally through Tecate, Mx. He walked a whole day and a half to get to San Clemente where he was picked up and brought to Morgan Hill, CA. My father is a hard working man and had no trouble finding a job harvesting crops. He worked there for a couple of years, raised some money and brought my mother and sisters from Mexico. My father was very poor in Mexico and although his income as a farm worker in the United States wasn't very much either, he was able to pay his bills and have a little extra for some fun. He began to explore a world he had not seen before. Like going to night clubs, drinking with his friends and other things he had not experienced, because of the lack of money. My mother came into the United States at twenty one. She was a very hard working lady as well. She loved my father and tended to him hand and foot. She was also a farm worker, yet she would still come home cook, clean and take care of her five children. My father on the other hand was

out partying living the single life, this created lots of problems between my parents. My mother being a strong willed person could not accept his ways and decided to leave him. Four months later my mother was killed in a car accident by a drunk driver. This marked my life forever, leaving an empty feeling that will never be filled.

I was one year old when my mother died. My father picked us up after the accident and raised us to the best of his ability. He was a Don Juan though and had many women in and out of our lives. We had many different stepmothers whom didn't like us and treated us bad. My father is a good person, but like most Mexican men he is emotionally unattached. He didn't pay attention to these things and did not realize what was happening. His concern was to provide a roof over our head and to put food on the table but he didn't realize that what I needed was attention and love. I understand the fact that he didn't have attention or love when he was growing up, consequently didn't know how to give it either.

Luckily for me, my baptism's god parents continued to look after me. They would visit often and I would spend most of my summers with them. My godmother is such a loving and nurturing person that everyone that crosses her path is blessed. She taught me to value family and to understand that as humans we all make mistakes and cannot judge one another. She taught me that prayer and meditation helps heal problems faster and can give you inner peace. My Godfather is also great! He calls me his Queen and treats me like one too. In fact when I was about eight years old, there was a doll by the name of Rainbow Brite, I really wanted that doll. One day he went into a store to purchase some work shoes and saw the doll while waiting in line to pay. He knew how much I wanted that doll, but he only had enough money for one thing. He didn't think twice he came home with the doll and surprised me with such love that I will never

forget that moment. The fact that he purchased the doll for me, and sacrificed himself for me kept that memory close to my heart. To this day they still keep in touch and look after me; they are the most amazing people I know.

Growing up without a mother was very hard, my brother made it even harder. He would constantly say mean things to me like you are so ugly, so fat nobody will ever like you. He is not a mean person but we were kids and he didn't know any better. He thought he was being funny! Since I didn't have anybody to boost my self esteem, and my brother and cousins were constantly tearing it down, it went straight to the floor. For many years I felt like the ugliest person in the world. I didn't speak my mind because I was afraid of drawing attention to myself. I didn't go to school dances or any school functions because I was extremely shy and felt really insecure. I had a tremendous need for attention and self approval.

As time passed I felt more and more alone, like nobody understood me. I needed to have closeness and feel love so I married and had kids. Having my kids brought light and happiness into my life getting married just complicated things more. When I got pregnant of my first son I was afraid and didn't know how to deal with the situation. Things eventually fell into place and I got pregnant with my second child five months after my first son was born. That was tough especially because I didn't know how to be a mother. I began to read books about parenting and taking classes. The classes helped me to understand that in order to be a good mother I had to be mentally healthy. I had to work on myself and let go of all the hurt I was carrying. I had to learn to value myself as a person and to accept myself the way I was. It has been a long process and I can't say that I've fully recovered but I am on the right path and I know I'm closer now than ever. I truly believe that every person that crosses my path is meant to teach me something. My

kids were sent to me to give me the strength and motivation to endure any situation. They do drive me nuts sometimes, and boy do they fight, but my life would be miserable without them.

I then got a job doing office work and sales for a paint company. It was a small business and was able to work closely with the owner. I learned a lot about running a business and it also help me build character. The owner was very demanding and liked things done efficiently. He is a very smart man and expects people to be at his level. He thought me to envision what is coming down the road and to be ready for it. He taught me fight for what I want and to never give up. He made sure that I finished the projects I started. He disliked people that wanted to do everything and never finish anything. I was like that, I wanted to do real estate, I wanted to go back to school, and I wanted to start my own business. I had so many dreams and I would start them but as soon as things got hard I would run. Then I was given the opportunity to focus more on sales, go out to meetings and meet the customers. This was nerve racking at first, but it was nice to sit at the same table with the CEOs of such companies. I did a few presentations and closed a some deals. This gave me great satisfaction and also helped boost my self esteem. I realized that this man had more faith in me and my abilities than I did. He gave me a lot of different project s like working with the inspectors that came in, taking care of the permits, the insurances. Now I am confident that when I start my own business I will be able to manage it properly. He did give me a lot of business knowledge but he also inspired me and helped me believe in myself.

I believe in God with all my heart, mind and soul! I believe that god has a mission for me and has put all these people in my path to guide me there. In all my experiences whether good or bad I have found a lesson to self discovery. Allowing me to know my weakness and my strength

so that I can work on them. I am in college now, fulfilling one of my dreams which is to get educated, with the idea of someday starting my own business.

Because I have learned to love and accept everyone as they are, I am able to forgive and let go of the hurt. The fact that my mother wasn't there forced me to be strong and to fight for myself. I admire my father and my boss for their working habits and their great minds. I try to live up to their level of standards. For I know that if I want to succeed I must! My god parents gave me lots of love and respect and taught me to pass it on. My children are the battery to my motor, they keep me going.

Now I am a strong, Independent woman with a better self esteem, self love and with the desire to reach the stars!