

The world's toughest job

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What do you think is the toughest job in the world?

The responsibilities for this job are rather quite extensive.

First, you must be able to work 135+hours a week and it's basically 24hours a day for 7 days a week.

You have to move around constantly, so you'll need a high level of stamina.

Second, you might need a degree in medicine, in finance and in the culinary arts.

This means, you'll need to know a lot about health, money and cooking.

And finally, this position is going to pay absolutely nothing. You have to work completely for free.

Do you think you would want this job?

Can you believe there are billions of people that actually currently hold this position?

Who would take this kind of job?

--It's Mom.

Imagine what your mom does from the time she wakes up to the time she goes to bed.

Imagine how many things she is doing for you and the family.

As for my mom, she wakes up early in the morning to make bentos for me and my brothers and she is always up late to do the laundry and prepare for tomorrow for our family. When does she have the time just for herself?

My mom used to work at a nursing home for people with disabilities for about 30 years and then another 10 years as a children's nurse. I cannot believe that she was not only handling the world's toughest job at home as a mother, but also she was working outside for our family and for the community. She is now 61 years old and retired after 40 years of being a care worker. I am so proud of her, and I am proud to be her daughter.

When I make a big decision, she always encourages me and gives me confidence. The most unforgettable moment for me was when I decided to go to America for the first time to join a summer program at the age of 14. My neighbors asked my mom, "How could you allow such a young girl to go abroad?" At the time, it was

unusual for middle school students to go abroad. Then my mom answered, “I’m worried a little bit, but I just want her to experience whatever she wants”. Her words made me feel so loved because she believed in me. When my mom was my age now, she never thought about going abroad. Thanks to her encouragement, I was able to see the world that my mom never got to see and those experiences have made me who I am.

Even now she still encourages me. A couple of weeks ago, when I decided to apply for this contest, I couldn’t decide what to talk about. I was totally panicking, but then my mom came into my room with a cup of my favorite honey citrus tea and said “You don’t have to think too much, just follow your heart” At that moment, I made up my mind about what I was going to talk about today.

Today I’d like to take this opportunity to remind you not to take your mom for granted. Today when you go back home, try to spend time with your mom. It’s okay even if you don’t have many things to say; maybe you can ask her how her day was like. You’ll be surprised she is still working so hard for you. She is the one and only woman of your life who loves and cares for you no matter what.

There is an Okinawan song called “ていんさぐぬ花”

The 3rd verse goes like this:

夜走らす船や にぬふあ星目当てい 我なちえーる親や我どう目当てい

Ships sailing at night look to the North Star for guidance,

My parents who gave me life look to me for guidance.

It’s natural to think that children only depend on their parents. However, a person cannot be a parent without a child. And having a child changes a person’s life.

My mom made me who I am but I helped make her who she is, too.

I sometimes feel a little pressure if I can ever be like her.

But what I learned from this song is that she gave me directions to find my own life to become who I am. And one day, I hope my child will guide me in the same way that I hope to guide her.