



Journey Through Life By Fei Cochrane

I would like to share with you a saying or phrase that guided me through my professional consulting career. It is: **“Life Begins at Home”**.

Life Begins at Home. The power of this phrase cannot be overstated. Our journey through life begins on a soul level when we seek out a mother or a family to be born into. Upon finding it, we are born to the mother that we selected and raised in the environment of the family that we chose. Our new life's journey on earth begins at birth, that is in “Our Home”.



All homes are not created equal. The knowledge that our parents possess in parenting determines what we are taught from birth. In some cases, parents are very young and need guidance, while in other cases, they are older and have extensive experience. In any household, parenting is of utmost importance. A home can be run by parents who are inexperienced without guidance from others, and a home can be run by parents who are excessively protective or who impose strict discipline on their children. There are some homes that are raised by religious families who strictly adhere to their religious beliefs.

The choice to find your own life outside of your home environment is up to each of us, regardless of where you were born. I believe that it is important to have the experience of what we grew up with, but not to remain in that environment for the rest of your life. Let your home life experience serve as a guide for finding your own life's journey. Obtain your own comfort, love, career, new home, new environment, new city, new country, new friends, etc. for your own benefit.

I grew up in a very poor family in the Philippines, on the island of Catanduanes. The province is located in the Bicol Region of Luzon in the Philippines. The island is located east of Camarines Sur, across Maqueda Channel, and is the 12th largest in the Philippines. Virac is its capital city.

I enjoyed my childhood and cherish the memories I have of it. In our pole house home, we had a nice size, clean, and comfortable living space. While it did not have furniture like our new home, it was a very peaceful and happy environment. My entire family slept in a large bedroom in one part of the house. All of us slept on mats on the floor. We had a long pure wood dining table and chairs in our home, but that was all we had. We have our dinner together as a family every night and no one is allowed to be late. My parents are very strict about this. It is the image of my entire family eating together in the kitchen that I cherish the most to this day.

We always maintained a clean home, and the wood floor was always a pleasure to see every day. I was raised by a mother who always ensured that the floor was polished every day with floor wax. It is not permitted for anyone to bring their slippers or shoes into the house. Our home remains sparkling clean every day as a result of it.

Both of my parents were farmers. As a child, I was always eager to see my father arrive from the mountain with a bundle of fruits, vegetables, and root crops. In turn, my younger brother and I sell the fruits in our neighborhood. My mother assembles some fruits and vegetables on a flat container, which my brother carries on his head and we walk around the community to sell them. I am responsible for collecting the payments. My brother and I had a lot of fun, especially when we returned home with an empty container and money to present to our parents.

On weekends, my siblings and I were required to help out at home and at the farm before playing with friends. We had live stocks in our yard to take care of everyday, we had chicken and pigs. My favorite part was feeding the chicken and collecting eggs.

On weekends, my siblings and I were expected to help out at home and work on the farm before playing with friends. In our yard, we had chickens and pigs to care for every day. Feeding the chickens and collecting eggs were my favorite parts of the experience.

When my father passed away at a very young age, it was the saddest moment of my young life's journey. It saddened me to see my mother crying every day, missing my father as she cared for her children. In order to provide food for our daily needs, my siblings and I helped her in the mountain. During planting season, I used to bring my mother's lunch to the mountain, which was a short distance from our home. Harvesting season is the highlight of this journey. It is my mother's choice to remain a single parent and not remarry.

Although my mother did not complain about how difficult life was for her, I could tell that she was struggling to keep up with things. Every time she came down from the mountain, I could see how fatigued she was. We were always advised by her to pursue a higher education and not to become farmers. In her opinion, college education is of utmost importance. I have always been advised by her to maintain higher grades in order to qualify for college scholarships. I can still hear her advice whispering in my ears to this day. Despite the fact that she thinks blue-collar work is noble and honorable, she encouraged us to pursue our life's journey out of the island and into the city having a white-collar occupation. In her view, we should not have to plough the fields forever and struggle through life in the same way she does.

Taking her advice to heart, I made the necessary changes in my life as soon as I graduated from high school. I enjoyed my experiences at home, but I am especially fond of helping her in the mountains, going to the falls with her and my friends to wash clothes, playing net fishing with my friends at night, and playing under the sun and in the moonlight. I know she was right. A better path in life can be achieved through education outside the island in order for me to create my own and beautiful life. However, this means that I must leave her behind in order to embark upon this new journey of my life after completing high school. The fact that I graduated as salutatorian in high school allows me the opportunity to receive a half-scholarship for college. With this in my hands, I began the journey of my life out of the island and into the city of Manila. Philippines' capital is Manila.

Thanks to my older brother, I was able to remain in Manila without having to rent an apartment. I assisted my sister-in-law with household chores and cared for her children in exchange. There is one obvious problem, however, and that is where will I be able to find the second half of my college tuition fee? In addition to my excellent grades, I achieved a high score on the NCEE (National College Entrance Examination). In light of these records, I was very fortunate to find a college that offered me full financial assistance. To maintain the scholarships, I must maintain a grade point average of A. Upon graduation, I received a Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in science and a minor in mathematics. Throughout this journey, my mother has been my rock and my hero.

My initial goal of completing college was not easy to achieve. However, I persevered in order to achieve my goal. My mother taught me at a very young age that hard work pays off in the long run. It is possible to succeed if you have the patience and perseverance to overcome any obstacles, trials, calamities, etc. that you encounter along the way.

Hopefully, my life's journey will serve as an inspiration to you to pursue your education or to pursue any goals you have in mind for which you believe there is a strong chance of success. Having a positive outlook on life and focusing on the dream of living a fulfilling life is always beneficial. It is inevitable that you will face life's trials. Take control of it, face it, and make the necessary changes to overcome it. Life would not be fulfilling without those trials. You will feel good and proud about yourself when you earn your success through hard work and dedication. As you achieve success, look back and express gratitude to all those who assisted you along the way.

Financial assistance from your parents or other individuals should not be relied upon. Be careful not to take advantage of anyone who is willing to assist you. Always behave in a kind, loving, considerate, and respectful manner. As you embark on your life's journey, patience and perseverance are the most essential ingredients. Do not allow anything negative to discourage you from achieving your beautiful dream. Instead, use them as a guide and motivation to succeed. It is important that you share your knowledge and expertise with those who need help or assistance. It is imperative that you behave in a kind and respectful manner towards others in order to be treated in the same manner.

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