

Laws of Life Essay

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Essay Title: Generosity Comes in Many Forms

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To be completely honest, I probably should have known sooner.

Throughout my life, I've been told that generosity can come in many forms. The value of giving readily was a trait and quality that my familial and school related environment taught me from a very early age. In particular, the fact that it can come from even the most unexpected of places was especially highlighted, as it was never meant to be an action that required sacrifice - only done by those devoted enough.

But for as much as I had it drilled into my mind, I never really stopped to appreciate such an important sentiment. I never considered myself generous when I listened to my friend's problems. I never considered myself generous when I searched for solutions to arguments between my siblings. Rather, generosity at first was this huge achievement to attain for me - a characteristic attributed to those who have given their everything to others out of pure selflessness. It seemed to me that generosity was this act of giving without ever receiving anything in return.

And while being rewarded is something one shouldn't expect when being generous, I realized that my thought process back then was incredibly flawed.

Looking back at it now, there seems to be one noticeable similarity between all the moments I helped others. That similarity being that I myself had also benefited from being generous. And, this did not include any ulterior motives or underlying intentions I may have had. This was something more subconscious; something more... genuine.

I would always feel happy and sort of giddy anytime I helped people. I'd feel joy whenever I see my classmates smiling in relief at understanding a lesson. My younger brother - jumping up and down while dancing to songs from "*The Greatest Showman*" after choosing to play with him. All of these experiences have made me realize that despite anything I may be giving, I have been receiving just as much, if not more so! That, the simplicity of helping someone was personally beneficial in ways I have only begun to discover. To view helping others as a way of giving to yourself was this incredible finding that had honestly made me value generosity more than ever before.

Generosity really does come in many different forms. Perhaps it should have been obvious; that when it comes to being generous, there is no reason for the trait to *not* apply to yourself. Perhaps, I should have realized it much sooner. But regardless, this simple realization was enough to change the way I viewed my entire life. I no longer had to hold myself to a standard that was near impossible, because I had never even needed to. There was no pressure to perform at the highest level, as that isn't what generosity is. Rather, it is the feelings we put into it, and the blessings everyone receives along the way.