

Moral Courage

I remember when I was around the age of 9, I was playing around in my house with one of my dogs. My mother had always told me to never play in the house because she didn't want me to break anything, but me being a child, did not listen. This one day, I was playing fetch with my dog, throwing a ball around the house as my dog went to retrieve it. But this one time, I threw the ball too far and it knocked down one of the picture frames on the wall. I wanted to cry just thinking about what my mother was going to say when she found out, but I knew I had to tell her. At the time, my mother was outside, so she didn't hear the sound of glass breaking. So instead of trying to make up a lie, I told her exactly what happened, despite my fear of being rebuked. In the end, I wasn't yelled at but I did receive a harsh warning. I define moral courage as the ability to act courageously for moral or ethical reasons, despite the fear of consequences. Moral courage is an important trait that I believe more people should attempt to display.

Moral courage should be displayed by people more often than not. Moral courage shows one's confidence in their decisions and morals. It shows one's willingness to stand up for what they believe in, despite the consequences. To me, moral courage is necessary to make a difference in a society that may need change. It helps people unite and work together in ways they may have never thought could be possible. Moral courage, to me, is the key to making an impact on people and the community.

There is one person that I look up to and aspire to be more like, and that is my mother. When it comes to our personalities, we are complete opposites as I am a quiet and introverted person while my mother is much more outspoken and social than I am. My mother is unafraid to speak her mind and stands up for what she believes is right. When I was around the age of 7, my mother took me to work with her and at one point, my mother had gone on break, so she sat

down with me to eat. Later on, a group of 3 women who also worked there sat down at a table near us. I didn't think much of them until they started laughing and speaking loudly to the point I couldn't focus on anything else. As I sat there listening to their conversation, I noticed that they were bad-mouthing another coworker of theirs. Listening to them say all these horrible things about this person made me feel terrible, and I wanted nothing more than to tell them to stop, but I lacked the courage I needed to do such a thing. But my mother had enough, so she turned towards their direction and, in Spanish, said, "Shut up. No one wants to listen to the three of you talk bad about someone who's not even here to defend themselves". At first, they seemed shocked, but it worked as they sat there silently, no longer speaking to each other seeming almost embarrassed for being called out. This was the first time I had seen my mother act this way, and it is a memory that has stuck with me since.

My mother's actions left an impact on me as a child, inspiring me to follow in her steps as I grew older. I wanted to be courageous, to stand up for what I believed is right, and to be unafraid to speak my mind. Although, as much as I wanted to be like this, my timid and quiet nature prevented me from doing so. The number of times I missed the opportunity to be morally courageous, and how I look back and wonder what I could have done if I was more courageous. I remember a time in elementary school when a group of boys would pick on my friends by making fun of their appearances and giving them terrible nicknames. My friends would always talk back to them which would only make things worse, while I stayed quiet so they usually left me alone. Looking back, I wish I could have done what my mother did years ago, but I was too afraid of getting picked on that I remained silent. I know that if I decided to defend them the way my mother did, I would have ended up getting picked on just like my friends. But in all honesty,

that would have been better than just watching because then I would know that I at least tried to stand up for them.

Moral courage is a trait that needs to be displayed by people more often. Remaining silent in the face of an injustice or wrongdoing is not going to make the problems disappear on their own. Actions that display moral courage need to be taken in order to make any type of change. At times, it may seem terrifying to do such a thing, especially when there may be some form of consequence but without fear, there is no courage. Fear is no longer something that will act as a roadblock for me anymore, but as a form of motivation to help me move forward.