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Triumphing Over Conflict: The Path to Peace and Progress

A condition of disagreement or discord resulting from competing interests, ideas, or actions between people, organizations, or entities is referred to as conflict. It can take many different forms, such as arguments, disagreements, or even violent altercations. Conflict can result from disparities in values, goals, needs, interests, or beliefs. They say that conflict is inevitable, however combat is optional. We all face different challenges and difficulties in our lives, it is a natural aspect of life, human interaction. Despite all of these, I believe that we shouldn't concede defeat that easily.

A memory always lingers in my mind. Whenever I accidentally think of it again, I can't help but to be amazed and be proud of myself, for I was able to overcome that conflict. It was the time when my mother went abroad to China. This was for her to work there as a domestic helper. Me, my brother, and my father were left by her. Months and months went by, it slowly sank in that my mother only did that to sustain us, for us to be able to buy our needs especially that my father's only a taxi driver. It was before the pandemic, and I could say that it was the right timing for my mother to go abroad since the lockdown came, enabling people to stay locked in their houses, scared that they might get infected by the said coronavirus. We were good at first. Until one day, I caught my mother having a chat with another man, obviously not my father. I was horrified, thinking that this might be the end of everything. I decided not to tell my father because I was also afraid of seeing them losing each other. The sense of disaster slowly cripple my mind, I was dumbfounded. When I was still a child, I always saw my mother and father fighting, even petty arguments. Our house was surrounded with broken plates, broken glasses, that reminded me of how terrible my childhood was. A certain day made me realize that one day, they will eventually part ways. But the fact that it really happened, it made me really devastated. I was in agony the whole time, until my father was able to find out. That was the start of war. Not the war between my parents, but the war between me and my father. That same day, my father called me, asking if I've known about this, if I've tolerated my mother, asking why I didn't take action. I was stunned. Why should I be the one to be asked by these questions? Why should I suffer? My father became drunk. Everytime he went home, he always found a reason to argue with me. I always caught myself staring at the darkness of the ceiling, crying, and thinking again why should I be the one to suffer? Everything's a mess. It was the time of pandemic, and it was also the time of my difficulties. I remembered the times I suffered the most. Since it was pandemic, the only mode of learning we can do is modular and online learning. My father's away, leaving me and my brother alone at home. It was a very difficult time for me because I need to be mighty, to be able to cook, to feed my brother, to do the laundry, to bathe my sibling, to do the household chores, and to be a student. I was multitasking the whole time, while my father's away driving his life insane and my mother's abroad trying to suppress the feeling and sustain our needs. What should I do? I was working day and night, living a hellish life. I was a student, a sister, a daughter, a granddaughter, a cousin, and an acting mother and father at the same time. How could a twelve year old do that? How could a child like me suppress all the hardships I've gone through?

As time went by, everything went back to normal. My father moved out with his new wife, my mother hired a nanny for my brother, I was back with being only a student, a sibling, and a daughter. Up until now, I still wonder how I've passed those conflicts and difficulties? I've realized that not every day is Christmas. I've also learned that to be able to surpass these conflicts we're facing, we need to find a way to the Lord our God, trust in him and have faith in him. I believe that in moments of conflict, faith serves as an anchor, providing stability and grounding amidst uncertainty. It's about relinquishing our fears, worries, and desires to God and allowing his grace and wisdom to guide us through the difficult times. In moments of weakness and vulnerability, faith reminds us that we're not alone, God's with us, and God will stay with us always. Fellows, please do acknowledge, do not concede defeat that easily. Find a way to be able to get back to normal again. Don't let your fears drown you, don't let your guards down. Be brave enough to surpass these uncertainties, and always remember that God's the bridge to the path to peace and progress.