

A WALK FROM YESTERDAY

by:

Jeffer Y. Manalo

Nagbalayong National High School

As I have recalled my elementary days, I can't help but remember the ones being bullied. I always have sympathy for them. I know that they don't choose to be like that my classmate. This guy shows unusual characteristics for some reason. He was not bullied for his physical attributes but for his mental incapacity. He belongs to the people with special needs. Whenever we have an activity, he participates poorly. He even wants to do things irrelevant to the class session. He is a shy type of person and talks occasionally. He makes extra-movements which makes him look uneasy. He can also be considered as a student with numerous accepted punishments. Sometimes, he looks crazy. Kidding aside, it became usual for us, his classmates his daily routine. At some point, he is also a source of fun. We take this situation as a normal scenario happening in every class session.

On the other hand, our adviser together with our subject teachers had noticed the same observations. At first, they were hesitant to mention these to his family members. They believed that, at a certain point in time, he would change. But it did not happen. He even exhibited the worst attitudes. This scenario helped our teacher to decide what actions to take. They reported him to his family members, especially to his parents. Our teachers were shocked as his parents shared something about him. During pregnancy, her mother experienced illness which led her to take medicine. She even experienced had accident while taking a bath. They believed that these incidents affected the totality of my classmates. Somebody threw a joke that "his head was being shaken". Funny how we react to this kind of scenario.

After hearing the story the teachers have changed the way they approach him. They sometimes gave special instructions, treatment and approach. Noticeably, his activity was far different from ours. We, his classmates, have noticed the changes in how our teacher dealt with him. We even felt that this scenario was being taken for granted. It always becomes a reason for an excuse.

For this reason, our teachers have explained the situation of our classmates. They mentioned that we are so lucky because we don't experience as much as our classmates do. They also emphasized that they were giving him different activities. His level or thinking capacity differs so much from ours. This may be due to their daily observations.

As a result, we have embraced his differences. We understood that we should take things differently. We must not be judgmental but rather be observant of the things happening around us. Let us accept the fact that things go differently and that makes something and somebody unique. Just like Margaret Mead said, "Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else." No two individuals are alike. We should learn to embrace and accept each other's uniqueness. And if this happened to you, how would you respond? Just asking.

References:

llevatenetwork.com/articles/7579-quotes-about-being-unique