

THE AGONY AND LOVE OF A TEACHER

by:

Nora A. Eludo

Master Teacher I, Alauli Elementary School

Teaching is more than just a profession, it is a journey of the heart. For many educators, the classroom is not only a place of learning but a sanctuary of growth, care, and deep emotional connection. Teachers often form bonds with their students that go beyond academics, nurturing them as if they were their own children. Yet, as the school year ends, they face an inevitable and bittersweet moment: letting go of learners who have been with them through triumphs and struggles. The agony of parting with learners is a profound experience for many teachers. After investing countless hours, patience, and love in guiding students, watching them prepare to leave is a moment filled with mixed emotions—pride, sadness, hope, and sometimes a quiet loneliness. Teachers see each learner as a unique individual, their growth a testament to shared dedication. The impending separation can feel like saying goodbye to family members who have been part of daily life, leading to a sense of loss and longing.

Teachers' love for their pupils often mirrors the care parents provide. This love is evident in the personalized attention given to struggling students, the encouragement for those facing personal challenges, and the joy found in every academic achievement. The classroom becomes a nurturing environment where students learn not just knowledge but values, resilience, and self-worth. Teachers' genuine concern for their learners' well-being extends beyond school hours, often involving mentorship and guidance about life's broader challenges.

Despite the pain of parting, teachers hold onto hope and high expectations for their learners. They dream of their students' bright futures, wishing them success, happiness,

and the courage to overcome obstacles. This hope fuels teachers' dedication to prepare students not only academically but emotionally and socially for the world ahead.

The agony felt by teachers as learners leave is a poignant reminder of the deep bonds forged in education. It reflects the humanity at the core of teaching – a profession built on love, sacrifice, and unwavering hope. For teachers, every goodbye is not an end but a heartfelt send-off filled with wishes for a prosperous and fulfilling future for their beloved students.

References:

Almazan, M. (2017). The Heart of Teaching: The Emotional Experience of Educators. *Philippine Journal of Education*, 92(3), 112-124.

Day, C., & Gu, Q. (2014). Emotional Well-being and Teacher Motivation: Implications for Teaching and Learning. *Educational Review*, 66(3), 263-276.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00131911.2013.778649>

Whitaker, T. (2013). *What Great Teachers Do Differently: 17 Things That Matter Most*. Routledge.