

## The Light in Darkness– My Mother

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“Heroes represent the best of ourselves, respecting that we are human beings. A hero can be anyone from Gandhi to your classroom teacher. Amongst the qualities a hero should have, I would include determination, loyalty, courage, perseverance, patience, focus, intrepidity and selflessness.” – Ricky Martin. It is evident that heroes do not have to possess superpowers and save the world. Nor does fame make one a hero. Heroes can have any character, status, or values– both Superman and a best friend can be a lionheart. Heroes are not always featured in a blockbuster movie or have a sandwich named after them at Subway. One person in my life who has such attributes of heroism is none other than my dear mother.

To me, being a hero is like putting on a well-worn suit of armor. The valor that it takes to wear this suit is what truly matters, not the gleaming grandeur of the suit. When my mother wears this armor, she looks like and is a shining, knight-like hero. At the same time, it’s what she usually wears, yet its qualities make her special. The suit is not rusty, but not brand new either: it looks natural on my mom, because she is audacious. An inner, dauntless light, however, radiates through the armor, making her seem powerful.

“Hero is not a noun. It’s a verb.” – Robert Downey Jr. The actions that my mother perform make her a hero, not the fact that she’s my mom. She helps me through difficult situations, wiping my tears, she encourages me during my journeys to success, giving me uplifting smiles on the way. Whether my mood is gloomy or sunny, my mother is there for me, in her gentle, but firm, manner. She teaches me about right and wrong and guides me to making good decisions. She understands me better than I do myself and is my guide in life. I will never forget, never take for granted her forms of loving and caring for me– cookies or advice.

“I love my mother as the trees love water and sunshine– she helps me grow, prosper and reach great heights.” Terri Guillemets could have taken these words right out of my mouth. Though my mom may criticize me, she means well, and does it only to help me. She always says, “If I tell you to do something, do it for yourself, not for me. If I do something to you, I do it for your benefit, not my own personal contentment.” Through a selfless, optimistic attitude, my mother guides me, understands me, loves me, and gives her all for me. Even though she is not movie star famous or the title of a popular sandwich, I still look up to her like a hero, an idol, a role model. And I promise her that her endless efforts will not be wasted. I intend to make her proud.