

# Victor Gomez

My dear children,

I don't know if I will be blessed to see anyone of you. You see that is life. As I write this letter, I can only pray and hope that I will be able to see, touch, carry and cherish your presence and life on earth. Only time will tell. I am glad I have this opportunity to write a letter to you and share with you my thoughts and hopes. Please bear with me and take a little lesson from the old or the dead.

Let me try with a metaphor. I think when you first read this letter you may not understand what I am trying to convey. And that is the first lesson about life. You may not understand the meaning of things at the first instance. Read it again later, maybe a few years later, and soon the meaning will be a little bit clearer.

In other words, life may not be what it seems. You need to seek and clarify and make sense of the meaning. Ah yes the metaphor. We old people get sidetracked quite easily. I am sorry. Your early years will be like in a cocoon. How long this life in the cocoon will take will depend entirely on you and will not be the same for everyone. Things are changing inside of you, your mind is learning and thinking differently, you are going through emotions you have never experienced before. And you know what, this life in the cocoon is just temporary, but you are who you really are - the true YOU inside.

The world outside may see a different side of you. That is okay. Trust yourself and trust in the family who will be beside you in your journey in life. Yet you must stand up for what you believe and act on it, not let it be just mere words. Accept who you are and what gifts God has given you. Question them if you want to and think about it. Could it have been worse? Life needs dull moments or else it will not teach us lessons for life.

When will you be the butterfly? Ah! That depends on you. When do you want to shed this cocoon and be in the real world accepting and challenging what life gives you. Remember - you'll always get the best out of yourself when you want and strive for success. Being successful is a great goal which I feel must come with fun and learning.

People around you must feel the pleasure of being with you. Strive for excellence, in other words, getting better at the things you do. Don't settle for anything less and soon you'll feel the joy of accomplishing what you truly want. Along the journey, there will be people who may obstruct your path, move aside and continue. If you fall, get up and continue. Whatever happens; continue.

Keep your head high. Never give up or give in. A little request to my lovely and beautiful children - Remember the code I want to share with you just as I had shared with your daddy or mummy - "I will not cheat, steal or lie or tolerate anyone who does so." I learnt this from the WestPoint Honour code. Maybe it is my military background, but I have no regrets. It will not be easy to follow the code, and yet it must

be done. I like the second part of the code though - “or tolerate anyone who does so”.

This is where principles come in. Let me explain. When you do not tolerate others who cheat, steal or lie, the chances are that you are close to being a person who does not do such things. More importantly, you have to stand up and do what you say you will do. In other words, having the courage to tell someone that he or she has cheated, stole or lied, even at the expense of losing them or a dear one. That is the ultimate test.

I wrote a letter to your daddy or mummy with the same message about this honour code. I trust they have shown through their actions the meaning of this honour code. Live them and I am certain, these values will become a moral compass that will help you navigate your way to a worthy and happy life. So dear children, have fun, enjoy the good, appreciate the lessons from the not-so-good and make the best of everything you have today. KNOW THYSELF. I am proud and honoured to be your Grandpa.

Love and Kisses

Grandpa,

Victor Mathews Gomez