

Being a researcher is my dream from a young age. I insist on it from my sixteen years old. Because my ideas are always different from my classmates when I was a teenager, I got the misconception from my classmates and teachers for many years. However, I keep on pursuing my dream because I realized that doing research gives me a sense of belonging. I got my undergraduate degree in economics, and the grade of the dissertation is ranked number one in my department. The professor who gives me full grades for this dissertation got a Ph.D. in economics from Xiamen University. Unfortunately, I can't get a passion for economics because policy is the key element impacts on the economic phenomenon all the time. As an observer, I can't get the truth of what is going on in the market. Even having this hesitation, I attended the entrance exam for graduate school in China. I failed the exam and the program I applied to has a high requirement for grades the applicant got in this exam. If a student without a high-level entrance examination grade applies to graduate school, the professors in this program won't read this student's paper and ignore this student's idea. I think maybe because I hesitate about this major and this feeling trapped me all the time, even though I did my best in preparing for the entrance examination, my potential for getting a high score on the exam is prohibited. Because of this failure, I feel so bad. But at the same time, I feel relief, because I don't need to do something I don't get so much passion for. So, I decide to have a travel to get relax and take the time to think about my future.

I visited Kyoto City in Japan. That's a city full of oriental spirit and visiting this city is the first time I knew the environment can influence people. During the days I lived in this city, I walked a lot in the temples and shrines. These buildings are built beside the forest and exists 200 years at least. I wandered in the Japanese gardens of temples and shrines, sensing the light, the smell, and the humanity which flows in the air. The moment I realized so many things flowing in

space, my memory starts to flow in my brain as well. I think it's because these sensational views stimulated the peace in my consciousness, I realized that I constantly recover from the setbacks I met quickly in my childhood. The misunderstanding, the bias, and the ridicule I got from the people made me feel bad a lot. But I can heal from the bad feeling very quickly and keep on going for the thing I want to do. The failure I got in my study and the moments I feel disorientation about my future, those have struggled me a lot, but the will of following my dream light me always. I realized that the development in mental is happening in my whole age and this interesting idea enlightened me to select psychology as the field I want to be a researcher. Furthermore, I decided to apply the graduate school in the states because I want to experience the influence of multi-culture on me and embellish my ideas with the understanding of this new world.

Miserably, after I completed the preparation of applying for the graduate program in the states, Covid-19 exploded. I'm forced to stop again and wait for the moment I can carry on to accomplish my dream. In the past two years, I can't have a job because of the pandemic and lockdown, many companies went bankrupt. And I can't even get an internship connected with psychology because I don't have a background in this area. At the beginning of this year, I got an offer from INTO George Mason for one semester accelerated program for the preparation for Educational Psychology Graduate Program. I'm so excited about this admission because I finally get the opportunity to continue making my dream come true.

However, another tragedy happened. Only one week after I got my offer, my grandma slipped into coma. When we bring her to the hospital, the doctor told us it was too late to save her life, even though doctors did everything they can; even my grandma lived in ICU. Because that moment

is not her last moment, my family needs to wait for her death. We waited for her death for 42 days. It's not like you knew your relative have pregnant, your family is waiting for the baby to be born, and you feel happiness and hope every day. It's the opposite. My family was overwhelmed in desperation for 42 days and waited for the huge desperation at the moment my grandma passed away. After 3 days after she passed away, we have the funeral. The moment I stand in front of my grandma's body to say goodbye for the last time to her, I realized that the gap between us is not the 30 minutes I can reach my grandma's home from my home; it's not the length from her arms to me for a hug. That is the galaxy, the gap between us, a place I can't measure by space and time; that is the gap between life and death.

Only 10 days after my grandma's funeral, I went to the embassy to attend my interview for getting a visa to America. I adjust myself only 10 days after this huge grief and did my best to show my passion for pursuing my dream to a visa officer. Fortunately, He gives me a "pass" instantly.

Since the beginning of this semester, I can't sleep because I'm still in the trauma of my grandma's death. Even taking sleeping pills, I only can sleep 3 hours mostly every day. And this situation continued for two months. Even now, I only can have 5 hours to sleep every day and always wake up at midnight. Even in this terrible condition, I built up my second language system, I learned everything I don't know about my new major by myself, I did my best in the discussion of my major classes and I did my best to show my nice to everyone I met.

I can't be perfect this semester, but I did my best all the time. I don't think perfection is a situation that exists in this real world. Sustaining perfection means continuing repetition. Human beings' development relies on the solution they figure out when they tackle the trouble with survival. Even though I can't have nice grades this semester, I got a lot of new skills in my second language learning and graduate course learning. I am satisfied with the things I have this semester.