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Living...in Fear

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Living...in Fear

Abstract

"What do you fear?"

"What is your weakness?"

Every time I get asked these questions, whether it's by interviewers or friends, I dread every moment of it.

How can I possibly put into words the fear I live with every single day of my life?

How can I put into words the pain I feel inside of me to help you understand?

My parents have raised me to be the strong independent woman that I am.

They have taught me to discipline myself and always work 10x harder than everyone else.

They have warned me from a very early age about my status in this country.

Making me aware of the disadvantages I have, compared to my peers and why I needed to work harder.

But what they could not possibly prepare me for is feeling this fear when being away from them.

How could they possibly prepare me to not feel this fear inside of me?

How could they prepare me for that when they have raised me to be so strong? [*excerpt*]

Keywords

fear, Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, humanity, Immigration, status, The Butterfly Coalition, undocumented, undocumented immigrants, voice

Disciplines

Civic and Community Engagement

Comments

Surge is a student blog at Gettysburg College where systemic issues of justice matter. Posts are originally published at surgegettysburg.wordpress.com Through stories and reflection, these blog entries relate personal experiences to larger issues of equity, demonstrating that -isms are structural problems, not actions defined by individual prejudice. We intend to popularize justice, helping each other to recognize our biases and unlearn the untruths.

SURGE

[VERB] : to move suddenly or powerfully forward or upward

LIVING...IN FEAR

October 23, 2019

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“What is your weakness?”

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But what they could not possibly prepare me for is feeling this fear when being away from them.

How could they possibly prepare me to not feel this fear inside of me?

How could they prepare me for that when they have raised me to be so strong?

Coming to Gettysburg was a huge accomplishment.

But it was also a journey I could not mentally prepare myself for.

How could I mentally prepare for this fear I live with every single day?

Fearing that at any time, my parents could be taken away from me.

Fearing that my father could be on his way to work and be detained by ICE.

Fearing that I could pick up the phone to call, and hear their voices, but never had a chance to say goodbye to them.

Fearing that there would be no one to look after my three siblings, leaving me no choice, but to drop out and go take care of them.

How could I mentally prepare for this fear I live with every single day?

As a first-year, I doubted my capabilities.

I doubted that I belonged at this college.

I doubted that I could graduate college knowing the new changes to legislature.

I doubted that I could ever be the person I am today.

I doubted that I could make it to my senior year.
Now I am here, in my senior year, fighting to make it to May 2020.

People ask me, "how does it feel being a senior?"
How can I answer that, when I myself did not think I could make it this far?
Living with uncertainty and fear every day of my life.
Living in fear of being separated from my parents without a chance to say goodbye.

So how do I put into words the fear I live with every single day of my life?
How can I help you understand?... I simply can't.
But I try.
I open up, reliving my trauma, trying to verbalize my fears.
In an attempt to let you in and help you.
Help you learn how to humanize me.
Help you become aware that this is my experience and it can be similar or different from other undocumented students.
Help you understand that there are many undocumented students at Gettysburg College.
Help you hear our voices.
So, welcome...

D.G. '20
Contributing Writer