**My future is changing now**

My longtime schooldays dream was to become a movie director. During my high school days, I kept myself engrossed in seeking social events worthwhile to be taken. However Korea’s wearing educational system that requires night-time “self” study at school prevented me from stepping out into the real world and capturing impressive moments in camera. That’s when my then class teacher came to sudden prominence like a real-life superhero, to make me free of the unreasonable night-time school program. His sincere support and attention in a student’s little dream underwent substantial difference to a person’s future path and life perspective (it’s not related to movie director, though). Now, at a later age, after having overcoming several discouragements, I found myself having a genuine interest in teaching, all thanks to him. What were the discouragements? What made me take this much time to reach this determination?

I married last year, late at the age of 34. That means, as a person who has little courage to break away from social norms, I have to have a baby quickly by all means. I, however, now feel heavily burdened with the responsibility because I feel – yes, I admit it’s immature in some degree - having a baby and bringing up the child would require much devotion throughout my life and could wield a profound effect upon the child’s life, which have long been serious discouragements to me. In this sense, teaching and having a baby have much in common, at least for me.

Teaching requires much sincere devotion to students. Even from my birth up, my father has been a truehearted teacher. Thanks to his faithfulness, I was forced to plunge into a lonely period of girlhood and teen-age years with my father mostly absent, immersed only in teaching and most of his time spent at school. It might be a “lucky” misfortune that I had shifted most of the blame onto teaching, not my father. Yes, I still respect my father, but see what happened: I have long, stubbornly resisted becoming a teacher despite my parents’ best efforts to bring me up as a teacher.

Teaching could wield a considerable influence on students’ lives. Up to now all my teaching experiences are limited to private tutoring. During my undergraduate years, I should earn my school expenses through such part-time teaching jobs, which was just a way of getting money at the time. In this backdrop, it was not easy to pay careful attention to what students need and want as well as teaching itself. I just killed the time by shoving knowledge into their brains and often small-talking about trivial things. One day I got a call from one of the students’ mother: “My daughter said that she had decided to become a movie director like you. What did you tell her during class?” I was astonished to know that what I spoke thoughtlessly could have an important bearing on them. Since then I had to carefully watch my tongue.

Whenever I shower my friends with questions about having babies and bringing up them in order to secure reasonable excuses for my fear and hesitation, they make typical complains of hardly having personal time and being exposed to constant physical fatigue, but with a common delighted, satisfied smile. The smile has felt like a bone stuck in my throat. What is it? Is there something I don’t know? Even though I still have some missing pieces of the puzzle, the same two discouragements now feel more like encouragements to me. Now I get to think: the more I put energy and time on something with a strong sense of responsibility, the more worthwhile and rewarding it would be.

We are sometimes asked if we have any memorable, venerable teacher in our lives. Many Koreans might answer, “Few, if any.” These typical answers well reflect how difficult it is to become a good teacher especially in such a hectic society like Korea and competitive Korean educational system. Also, in this situation, it is not a surprise that we are fed up with lots of dirty scandals and events in which half-hearted, self-interested teachers got involved. Despite all these combined, I now dreams of becoming a teacher, a good teacher, a good sincere teacher, as well as a good mother. I will see how my life can be changed when I get to have better understanding and more experiences about selfless devotion that accompanies heavy responsibilities.{