

Everyday I wake up into a world of chaos. Violence, war, injustice and discrimination plague the world, but still I find a reason to be thankful; to look past the chaos, I am thankful for the injustices in my own life and even thank the people who work against me. Most importantly, I thank those who have molded me into who I am today because without them, I would never be able to thank those who will never appreciate others or me.

Growing up in a single parent home, I learned quite quickly that only the strongest could survive in this world. Watching my mother go crazy over how we were going to eat the next day was depressing. Watching the people who said they cared walked out on us tore us apart, but still I thank God for putting me through it. I thank Him because if He did not, I would never be able to appreciate what I have today. In essence, I appreciate the many challenges that I experienced, because now I appreciate the greater things in life even more.

Secondly, I am thankful for my founders. Without them, I would not be the individual that I am today. I see the youth of my generation falling, and to me this is traumatizing. If I could, I would show them a better way to live their lives. Many of my peers have fallen victims to gun and knife crimes. This worries me and bugs me to find out why. In reflective moments, I questioned how I escaped the pitfalls of these pervading problems. Then I realized this is because of my founders. Without proper guidance and care from them, I believe I would have fallen off of the train tracks a long time ago. That is why I thank my mother, for showing me how to care for and treat a woman with respect; my mentor, for helping me to understand just how important is education; my godfather, for showing me that anything is possible; and lastly my teachers, for nurturing my learning and preparing me for life beyond the walls of schools.

Lastly, I thank all of my enemies. Without them, I would not be the strong-willed young man that I am today. If it were not for the teasing, bullying and abuse I went through, I would never be as confident as I am today. The name-calling taught me to ignore, the bullying taught me conflict resolution, and the overall abuse taught me to become immune to negativity. Surprisingly, the negative things in my life have taught me valuable life lessons instead of influencing me to do wrong.

In essence, there are many things in this world we can complain about; but how about if we just focus on being thankful for things such as life, family, air to breathe and support systems. For me specifically, I thank the spate of depression I went through, the people who founded me, and the enemies I have met over the years. I appreciate the many and varied experiences in my life. Whether good or bad, I am still thankful for them because they have shaped me into the focused individual I am today.