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Follow Your Heart Never Stop Dreaming

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*Dedicated to my dear teacher
that gave us so much love,
and whom I always remember
with fondness and respect.
Thank you!*

I have so many beautiful memories from when I was a student, and always thank God for all the opportunities that life has given me. I have made many sacrifices to be able to fulfill my dreams. I had to leave my family when I was very young to be able to study, and have suffered cold and hunger. But everything was worth it. They say it is not the destination, but the journey that matters, and I carry the most beautiful memories in my heart.

I remember that when I was in high school my Spanish Literature teacher liked the essay that I wrote about Love in Times of Cholera, by Gabriel García Márquez, very much. She was very proud of me and congratulated me, in front of the class, because she said that I wrote like a student from the University of California, Los Angeles; but a student that had already graduated. We loved her very much and she also loved us very much, her favorite students. She was so happy with us that she decided not to teach that Advanced Placement Spanish class anymore, because she believed that she was never going to have a better class, and she wanted to hold on to those beautiful memories. Good teachers always leave a mark on the lives of their students.

But when I applied to go to UCLA, I was rejected, even though my GPA was over 4.0. But, thanks to that, I met many interesting people and learned many beautiful things, in other places. That is how destiny took me to the University of California, Riverside, where I studied Computer Science. There history repeated itself when one of my professors congratulated me, in front of the class, for a computer program that I wrote, because he believed that it was impossible to create a faster and more efficient version than the one he already had, and asked my permission to use it for his work. Thanks to all my teachers for all the love they have given me, for their time and dedication, and for helping me to fulfill my dreams.

My path has never been easy, and has always been full of thorns. Wisdom indeed gives heavy crosses, as our Father Saint Louis de Montfort teaches us. In order to survive, I had to fight against evil itself. Right after I graduated from university and with all my life ahead of me, I was able to get a job at Environmental Systems Research Institute. But the people that I worked for hated me very much and tried to kill me for fun and pure evil. Because of them, I was unable to work in the field of science that I loved so much anymore. It seemed as if all my life's effort and sacrifice went into the trash; my golden dreams vanished, as if nothing mattered anymore.

After many tears, I got up again and decided to go back to school and study another career. For a time, I was very happy studying art, in Chaffey College, until my enemies decided to destroy my peace because they were jealous. They harassed and attacked me in my own school. They did not let me continue studying. Everywhere I went, they followed me to hurt me. There was no place, not even in the house of my Father, where I was safe. But God is merciful. He never abandons us. All the suffering only makes us stronger. I found refuge in the Blessed Heart of the Almighty and learned from His Divine Wisdom. Thanks to Him, today I am very happy and have no fear anymore. I am a faithful servant of God, and create love and happiness everywhere, where I sprinkle the Lord's blessings.

I have never stopped fighting for my goals, and with faith I have been able to overcome adversity. I reaped a thousand triumphs and learned from all my failures. Each one of them was just an opportunity to be better; each humiliation, each rejection, a challenge to overcome. Thanks to all the people that did not believe in me, because they made me so much stronger than I ever imagined. The builders also rejected the stone that became the cornerstone.

Follow your heart. Never stop dreaming. The only failure would be not trying; to give up because of fear. Let the mocking and insults turn into applause and words of encouragement. People always talk about the ones they most admire. Who knows where all your dreams will take you one day. Who knows what wonders you will discover, and in what other skies free you will fly.