

Miss My Petit Prince

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Each moment in my life, I wonder why I survive so strong. Life became mediocre because of my selfishness. Only if I change my thinking, I can then feel all the love and happiness. Or maybe because I am not so perfect, when I am frustrated, I learned, and moved at every turn during the encounter.

In the past, my biggest wish was “To live my life gently without any thorns!” So fortunately, I became a nurse. Inadvertently, I entered the field of Hospice Care. I recorded the moments with patients, and collected them in my life album.

In my life album, there was the most beautiful fireworks blooming in the sky. And there stood a “he”, the bravest little prince. The fireworks he left behind was deeply engraved in my heart.

The little prince was a 15-year-old boy who suffered from brain cancer. The various signs on his body showed his persistence to fight the disease. He was told that there was no other available treatments when the cancer cells metastasized to the spine in 2019. A hospice care was suggested. His family brought him back to Taipei from Shanghai, and was admitted into our Heart Lotus Ward. Since then, we began our adventurous journey with the little prince.

When I first saw him, my heart was full of entanglement and sadness. “Is God not fair? Why is he sick?” I wish I could be a big warm sun and I could give this little brother much more warmth. Even if he could not speak, he could feel a trace of happiness at some moments because of my care. I also wanted to accompany his mom and dad. They were so sorrowful. How could I ease their pain?

Life is romantic but also realistic, the stronger the person, the saddened the heart. His father was always serious in front of us. On the contrary, his mother reluctance to give up and the worries speak through her eyes. I told myself, “I will do my best, because this is my job and it is what I do.”

The little prince had totally lost his mobility. Everything had to rely on others. So I accompanied the family members every day. I played music, massaged him, helped him exercise his joints in a relaxing atmosphere, etc. I also kept him fresh and clean. During the time, I liked to hear his mom talk about the little prince, anything she would love to share with me from her heart. Once she mentioned, “He was much well behaved kid.

He was good at learning and there were many girls who like him. I think he became sick because he was a good kid. If it is possible, I wish he would not be so good in his next life.” Her words stayed with me since then. It made me realized that the love is so deep from a mother.

Maybe they sensed our company and caring, the interactions between the mother and son started to evolve. Mom would hold her son’s hand tightly at the bedside, and talked to him in his ears. Slowly, we saw mom’s smile! And dad used to be a tough guy, now he started to take initiative to care about us, and the medical staff. Our daily massage time with the little prince became more joyful and with a sense of happiness since.

Unfortunately, the little prince had difficulty swallowing. Mom and dad wished he could maintain the basic food intake. After trying the anti-cerebral pressure medicine that did not help, the medical team suggested using nasogastric tube. Making the trade-offs, mom and dad decided to go for it with reluctance. When the little prince started to take milk and other liquids, mom and dad’s eyes lit up for they had made the right decision.

In order to help the little prince and the whole family cherish every moment together and build memories, I wanted to make a unique hat for each of them. So I asked them what kind of animals they would like to be. Dad said, “During Didi’s sick time, I was always bull-tempered. Didi has been struggled so hard, you can draw me a bull!” Mom said, “Yes! You sure are tempered like a bull!” Then she said to me, “You can draw me a rabbit.” Dad said, “Well, a rabbit is the best fit for you!” Of course, the little prince was the king and put on the crown! All three of them put on their unique hats and took a family portrait. The picture at that moment was really lovely. That night was so beautiful. Although the little prince could not talk, I think he also felt the beauty of being together.

One afternoon, dad offered me a drink and said seriously, “Thank you for being so caring for Didi and spending so much time with him.” I was a little shocked at that moment. I thought I just did what I do. I remembered my school sister always says, “During the process, patients and their families can feel every details and effort that you made. It is very simple for us, but it means a great significance to them. It can stay in their hearts for a long time for a little heart-warming action from us.”

But the final moment still came. The little prince’s condition deteriorated and relied on regular extraction procedure for saliva and sputum; otherwise his respiratory tract would be blocked. Mom ran out of the ward every time. Dad sometimes could not help and said angrily, “Why can’t you cough it out!” Both of them could not bear to see the suffering.



That morning, after the doctor explained the little prince's condition, mom and dad accompanied the little prince to the sky garden to bask in the sun as usual. But this time, mom held him crying hard and for a long time.

How strong should the patient family? In fact, the family was making progress much faster than we thought. They trained themselves to accept the fact that their loved one was time to leave. The next day, the little prince passed away.

I accompanied mom, dad and the little prince to huddle in tears. I cried hard beyond my control. I am very grateful that the little prince coming into my world. He is still staying in my heart. I still cries when I think of him. But he taught me a lot, he opened up my confidence in nursing care.

Now I have a definition of death. "Death is nothing to fear. The terrible thing is only I did not live to be myself. Losing my ability to love and hate is my real nightmare." I must cherish every moment of myself, be myself, and treat others sincerely. The thanks, apologies, and love in our realm are what we must learn with great effort from the moment we were born. And these are the true meaning of treating people. Only when we live our life well, we can finally say goodbye and "leave." And it is no longer scary for you and me, right?