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Great Marriage: Gift or Dedication?

Marriages are a dime a dozen, but great marriages are as rare as an extra paycheck. My parents have a very loving marriage. In the beginning, my grandmother thought that they were too young, but one day while they were in church my grandfather sat between them. An elderly friend asked him to get up and let them sit together. He was shocked by her request, but complied. Grandma then saw a rainbow over them. From that point on, she knew that they were meant to be together.

Although my parents argue and disagree at times, they do it with dignity and never put each other down. My parents do not yell and scream in front of my sister, brother, or myself. When they disagree, they will decide on a solution to the problem privately. Sometimes they will often go out to eat so they have some “quiet time” and discuss the problem without any of us intervening in the discussion. When one of my parents makes a decision, the other stands firmly behind it. My parents support each other’s decisions. They are a united front unfortunately for us.

Neither mom nor dad is dominating over each other. They both have a 50/50 relationship. It’s not like where I’ve noticed in some families where the wives are the slaves and are forced to do all the housework. That is definitely not the case in our family. My parents act as partners sharing household chores and responsibilities. When one of them needs help, the other is right by his/her side. When mom needs muscle power or a word of encouragement, dad is there. Both complement each other like salt and pepper seasoning the Sunday roast beef. Both are the two halves to a whole.

My parents love to have fun with each other. We do many things as a family so that everybody enjoys the fun. My younger brother, John-Martin, who is autistic, is also included in family games and activities. Although John-Martin is very unique and difficult at times, he also deserves to get a chance to join in on the fun, and we just have to understand that sometimes you have to be very patient with him.

My parents also find time out of their busy schedules to host a “date” night every once in a while, so that they remain close while helping my family grow. They also love to just simply sit down and play a competitive game of *Yabtzee*.

For these reasons, they are my choice for a greatest marriage. They nurture their bond by supporting and believing in their love. I have discovered that great marriages like my parents’ are not gifts, but rather products of hard work, effort, and acts of trust and faith. My parents continue to strengthen their marriage and be the backbone of our family by daily dedication.