

Tuesday, Sept. 26th, 1944.

Dear Son,

To-day you are two years old. It had been my fondest hope and intention that I would always be with you on all of your birthdays, but inexorable destiny has willed otherwise. In spirit though I am at your side, and will continue to be there as long as you need me. A little boy like you needs his mother and father, but for the present you must carry on under the guidance of your dear mother. I will endeavor to lend a hand thru the medium of the written word, so be a good boy and do not make it too difficult for mother. She too has much on her mind these days, and you and I have to do our best to ease her worries.

As you grow older you will discover that Life seems so complex, and yet the fundamental truths are so simple. Sometimes young fellows get off to play the game without learning the basic dogmas. This is something I would not want should happen to my boy. Even though you may not quite comprehend what I am writing at the nonce, the day may come when you will want your dad's advice, and so I am setting it up here. I know very well that youth must learn many things thru the "trial and error" method, but perhaps I will be able to eliminate some of the very rough spots.

1. You must learn to honor your mother and father. Not so much because they are your parents, but because they are the source of all that is good for you from the day of your birth until they depart from the scene of Life. Not so much because I tell you, but because from them you will learn to love, not only human beings, but the finer things in life. With so much ignorance and greed in the world, learning to be a "good man" is an invaluable asset. I would want that my little Jimmy be a good man.

2. You must learn to do unto other as you would want other to do unto you. This does not infer that you must attend a place of worship, or believe in a deity. It means that every person, no matter what his or her race, color, or creed may be, is to be given the same consideration by you to the end^{so} that you will not have enemies.

3. You must learn to play the game on the square. Winning is an important item in everyone's life, but being a "good loser" is a more valuable virtue than being able to crow over a victory. I would want my boy to be a winner all the time, but also to know that defeats must be taken with courage and fortitude.

4. You must learn to seek knowledge and light. Education, wisdom and experience are important assets to becoming successful and happy, and daddy would want you to be both.

5. You must learn to develop your body, to the end that you will be strong and healthy. Disease attacks the weak, the uninformed, and those who waste their strength and health. Learn to be temperate, not over indulgent, to moderate your desires, and you will soon discover that your body and mind will have will power and good health. Be clean both in mind and body, and you will soon learn that it is a joy to be strong and healthy.

My son in my short life I have learned these truths to be self-evident. Would that the rest of the world had learned these simple facts, and I am sure as I am at present sailing towards a foreign land, that this world war, this great, unhappy catastrophe would never have been necessary. I do not know what the future has in store for you or me, but this I believe with all my powers to think and reason that should you follow the precepts I have outlined above you will be strong, healthy, wise, and a leader of men. A leader who will not lead human beings to destruction, but to the source of light and happiness.

So my dear Jimmy I bid you many happy birthdays, and may I be with you to help you enjoy them. Until I do return home I want you to carry on like a brave soldier, take care of mother for both of us, and to think of daddy always. With a kiss in mind for you, please kiss mother for her sweetheart.

Daddy

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