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Values are Born in the Family

What is the meaning of the word “values”? Why do people have different values? These are very important questions that every person should answer. In my opinion, values mean a special characteristic of the person, principles in life that person is following. Usually values are developed in childhood when children see examples in a family. I can clearly see this example in the book of Firoozeh Dumas *Funny in Farsi*. The author is Iranian-American writer. She wrote a book about her family and how they moved from Iran to the United States. The book is started from the story of 7 year old girl, Firoozeh. The most important values, in my opinion, that Firoozeh has learned from her family are kindness and generosity. I also have learned that it is very important to be generous and kind from my mother.

Firoozeh learned from her father, Kazem, how it is important to be generous and kind. Her father was a very kind man. When he enjoyed something, he always wanted to share these feelings with other people. For example, he was so impressed by Disneyland that next time he went back there with his colleagues. Dumas wrote in her book, “... my father decided that if Disneyland was fun for our family, just think how much more fun it would be with twenty other people. That is how one weekend we found ourselves at Disneyland’s main entrance with six of my father’s Iranian colleagues and their families.”(17). As we can see, Kazem always thinks that if his family had fun, it means that fun and enjoyment will be even bigger if they do the same

activity with more people. That is why they always had big family gatherings. Dumas mentioned that her father's motto was "Room in the heart, room in the house" (24). To illustrate the meaning of the slogan, she tells the reader that her family was always happy to have guests for a long period of time even though they did not have a big apartment. Because of this attitude to other people, her family was always welcomed and treated with kindness. We can clearly see this example when Firoozeh's family was returning back to Iran, they were invited to a lot of parties in their honor because people wanted to do something good for them. In conclusion, generosity and kindness are two values that Firoozeh learned from her family because she saw a lot of examples from her father. Similarly to Firoozeh, I also learned a lot from my family.

My mother always taught me that it is very important to be kind and share with other people. She said that I need to treat people that way, that I want to be treated. Because I have a very big family, I had a chance to learn the meaning of these words in practice. My family consists of six people: parents, me and three older brothers. When I was a child I got used to that my family did everything for me because I was the youngest member in the family. With time I understood that I need to behave the same way to support a good relationship with brothers and parents. We lived in a small apartment where I shared the room with one of my brothers. I always helped my brother to clean the room and he helped me with my homework. Because we shared one room, we also learned to respect each other's privacy and share books and toys. Four children in the family is a big financial expense, so sometimes we had one big present for holidays for all. I find out that it is more fun to share happiness with my brothers. For example, eating candies together or playing games that we received. To summarise, my big family taught me a lot and most of it how it is important to be kind and generous.

Firoozeh and I have learned a lot about generosity and kindness from our families. I believe if you are kind to people they will behave the same way with others and the world will be a better place. That is why I think these two values are very important in life. As I can see from the book and my own experience, the most important values were born in childhood. I think this is very important to show a good example to children in the family because they will learn from it and develop an attitude to the world that they will keep through life.

Works Cited

Dumas, Firoozeh. *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America*. Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2004.