 Reading time: 2 min.

“I am reminded of Mrs Lee, my primary school teacher, who foresaw great things for my future.

I was an ordinary kid, in all respects. I was of normal stature and came from a middle-class family. I was not the brightest student, but I was not a troublemaker either. I remember Mrs Lee as a stern woman in her mid-thirties. She had a son who attended the same school, and whom I knew well because we had been in the same class the previous year. One day, as I was crossing the courtyard at the end of class, Mrs. Lee’s son approached and invited me to go play at his house, telling me that his parents had given him some new toys. The idea tempted me, but I was afraid of running into Mrs Lee. Understanding my hesitation, my friend assured me that my mother rarely came home before four o’clock. I agreed, as long as I could leave before that time.

We had a great time with the new toys, which won us over to the point that we forgot about the time, until the front door swung open and Mrs Lee made her entrance. I stiffened, imagining that I would be grounded for playing instead of doing my homework. To my surprise, Mrs Lee greeted me with a big smile. She turned to me with kindness and hugged me as if I were her son.

Thanks to that hug, I realised that she was actually a kind and loving person, who appeared strict in class to keep control of the class. She prepared a great snack for me, which she only gave to her son on rare occasions. As I ate, she affectionately stroked my head and said: “You will be a good student and a true role model for your friends. I am sure you will become an extraordinary person who will bring wisdom and happiness to so many people.”

In my young heart I felt an emotion that is difficult to put into words. After that day, I studied hard and tried to be a role model for other students. Since Mrs Lee had placed her trust in me, I was determined not to disappoint her. I think I became what I am today because of her words that afternoon. Without her encouragement, I would not have had the confidence to excel in my studies or to become a university lecturer and spiritual leader.

(an authentic testimony)

You can “see” in many ways. If you pull the wings off a dragonfly you get an ugly insect.

But if you add wings to an ugly insect you will have a dragonfly.

To everyone you meet you always add wings.