

Samuel Kim

My Family's Heritage

American author Steve Berry once stated that “A concerted effort to preserve our heritage is a vital link to our cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational and economic legacies – all of the things that quite literally make us who we are.” I also think that my heritage has been important and changed me and become the pride and the joy in my life. Of all the traits that I have inherited from my family, I think that there are two things that I think are particularly take pride in, my religion and my culture.

The first thing that I take pride in is my religion. Coming from a devout Christian household one of the things that I have inherited is my love of Jesus Christ. I think that this affects me because if I wasn't the Christian that I am I feel that I would not have the same personality nor obligations that I have now. If I were to be a non-Christian I feel that I would be more judgemental of people and look and judge them just based on appearance. Some obligations that I have that I wouldn't have without my religion include trying to put others before myself as well as sacrificing time to be with God. Religion has become a source of pride and joy for my family because it is part of us and identifies who we are and we also become joyful and feel unity within our religion.

The second thing that I inherited is my culture and language. As a Korean American, I feel that the Korean culture and language are extremely important to me. As a child, my family did not own a T.V and my parents did not permit me to watch any television, but they allowed me to watch one show called “Family Outing.” “Family Outing” is a Korean program where celebrities go to rural areas and are tasked with taking care of the homes and fields of the elderly

there. Meanwhile, the elderly get to take a long-deserved vacation. While watching this program I learned traditional Korean culture such as specific art, holidays, foods, and dialects in South Korea. I also got to improve my Korean speaking and listening skills. As a bilingual speaker, I found that the greatest gift given to man is the ability to communicate with each other through a common tongue. As a Korean American, I feel pride and joy in that I was able to inherit two different languages and cultures that allow me to connect with others and act as a bridge between two different cultures such as when I translated English for a Korean person who had trouble navigating the roads and in the future when I can volunteer as a translator when I become fifteen years of age.

I have now come to understand the value of my heritage through different experiences and how those experiences have shaped me into the person that I am today. After understanding my heritage and how important it is, I hope that I can successfully pass on the importance of my family's culture, religion, and language to future generations.