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Seven Dwarfs @ Jesus' Crib

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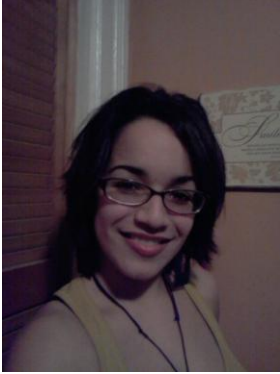
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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"I realize as a parent of three in my junior year of college I may be in the minority, especially for a twenty-nine-year old. One of the many joys of parenting if you will, are the many teachable moments that arise. When you first come to terms with the fact that you are a parent, you set out to do the best for your child in every possible way. My "tween" daughter Marielle Jaritza put me to shame and guilt during a recent conversation at my mother's house. I cannot recall how the conversation came about, but my mother was speaking of Jesus' birth and the meaning of Christmas. When my mom mentioned the three kings, Jaritza had a look of confusion on her face. After pondering the idea for a few minutes, Jaritza said, "Grandma, I thought it had been the seven dwarfs that had brought baby Jesus gifts when he was born."



Karen Martinez

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I realize as a parent of three in my junior year of college I may be in the minority, especially for a twenty-nine-year old. One of the many joys of parenting if you will, are the many teachable moments that arise. When you first come to terms with the fact that you are a parent, you set out to do the best for your child in every possible way. My “tween” daughter Marielle Jaritza put me to shame and guilt during a recent conversation at my mother’s house. I cannot recall how the conversation came about, but my mother was speaking of Jesus’ birth and the meaning of Christmas. When my mom mentioned the three kings, Jaritza had a look of confusion on her face. After pondering the idea for a few minutes, Jaritza said, “Grandma, I thought it had been the seven dwarfs that had brought baby Jesus gifts when he was born.”

It was at that point that the conversation broke up and exploded with laughter. My mother asked Jaritza if she had ever read the Bible and that’s when it dawned on me...this was *my* fault! Although Jaritza’s belief stirred a comedic experience, it forced me to face the facts. Yes, I had spoken to her about God before, but this was different. This experience shed a light of guilt upon me for not having taken the time earlier to help her (and my almost seven-year old son, Axel Esai since Kristopher Armani is barely two) understand what God has done and how we can serve him. I should inject here that I am not excluding my youngest son. Although he too can

benefit from being introduced to a religious path, he is still much too young to comprehend the concepts.

I thought this teachable moment appropriate at this point because it shed light on the fact that I could have been (and still can be) a more responsible parent when it comes to matters such as religion. By bringing it to you, I am reminding you to incorporate religion into your children's upbringing at a young age. Introduce them to God as early as possible for it will not only make them well-informed but it will also help to avoid moments such as the one Jaritza and I found us in. It is our responsibility to instruct our children and show them the way. It is inevitable that as a parent, you too will also learn from your children.



Marielle Jaritza, Axel Esai, and Kristopher Armani Martinez