

5th Joint Meeting on Adolescence Medicine

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Aula Consiliare e Sala dei Concerti, Palazzo de Nobili, Catanzaro (Italy)

My story

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MY STORY

- We live in a society that relies on image and concepts and designs for approval, but at the same time more and more multicultural and multiethnic.



MY STORY



MY STORY

- I have not had any particular difficulties in entering, first of all the schools, because I have been born and lived in a small town that has probably encouraged the socialization, but it is often the difficulty related to the inclusion in this society of pre-built images .



MY STORY

- I was lucky because I had a family that has accepted with joy, the presence of an achondroplastic child, creating around me an atmosphere of trust and love. Even if in the early years, the greatest fear was represented by the doubt of the future, but this problem affects families of all children .



MY STORY

- By the age of 10 years a series of events led my parents to favourite the beginning of my emancipation and with this baggage I arrived 14 years, when I should be aware of changes in my body closely linked to those physicals.
- Of course these changes for me (other anthropometric relationships that coincide with a change in relationship with others, with oneself, with a new self-image) have followed different paths.



MY STORY

- The storm was not accompanied by obvious pubertal changes in anthropometric and proceeded processes of sexual maturation.
- I had to try to tackle and solve a series of problems such as feeling independent and more mature in the absence of obvious changes in anthropometric, and made their appearance the adult sexual characteristics.



My story

- I had to accept that there was a fundamental difference between me and the others .
- There was a time when people could create me some trouble for that stimulate curiosity, particularly among children, but thanks to the serenity that my parents were passed to me, I took over this situation with equanimity.



Role of Family



- The period between 14 and 16 years showed how fruitful was the emotional relationship and relationship with my parents.
- Two parents who have always loved and never I saw fight aggressively, I never remember a violent act among them, there has always been a love so deep that enriched my life and my brother.



Role of Family

- In fact, most of the day we spent with my mother. She ran a family affair, she had to appease our quarrels and seek Dad only in very rare cases, when the disagreement between us was impossible to solve (2-3 times)



Role of Family

- Among them has always existed a relationship of love so deep, from which I could not take anything negative, and even though I protested and argued with them, at the end all was solved.



Role of Family

- If I were to quantify the influence that others have had on my choices as a teenager, I would say it did not affect much, basically I felt very self in even if the choices I have always discussed.



Role of Family

- Certainly, I don't know whether for cultural or religious or ethical, my parents even if they recognized the condition of their son, they have always perceived me this condition so irrelevant and they haven't limited me on the fact that I had to live my experiences.



Role of Family

- My parents have always involved our children in their lives without ever groped to conceal or minimize my condition. (Dwarfism) it seemed that the problem did not exist for them and so I did not receive negative voltages from the environment that surrounded me.



Role of Family

- I believe that for them the presence of a child with a particular condition has almost provided an opportunity to live an unique experience.



Role of Family

- Of course I had two parents very optimistic, whose presence has been the guarantee for me to deal with everyday problems, their attitude made me feel like a person capable of being accepted by others and to ask others for help when I needed one.



Role of Family

- So I checked that my relationship with others was positive, in others, I could stimulate a response of sympathy and helpfulness thank to my generous nature, and this gave me the security to go forward.



Role of Family

- Returning to the role of parents in particular I would like to speak to my mother because I think that my way of to be is resulted from her, who has a particular way of doing things, to be loved and loving detail.



Role of Family

- The love of my mother was then the love for the woman, the love of my mother, the love of women who have enriched my life.



MY LIFE

- So I found myself at the end of high school to have achieved a certain autonomy from the family, surrounded by a circle of true friends, that my parents were ready to welcome in our home with great confidence and affection to confirm the respect they had for my emancipation .



MY LIFE



- My parents where so sensitive to understand that if a person truly loves another, it would leave freedom.



MY LIFE

- I think I grew up in an environment where I could live a life experience that I envy myself, that if I had to tell someone what was my life, I'd say it was an experience that I lived again exactly in the same way, whose I was leading and that allowed me to achieve a satisfactory social, psychological and ethical role today.



MY LIFE

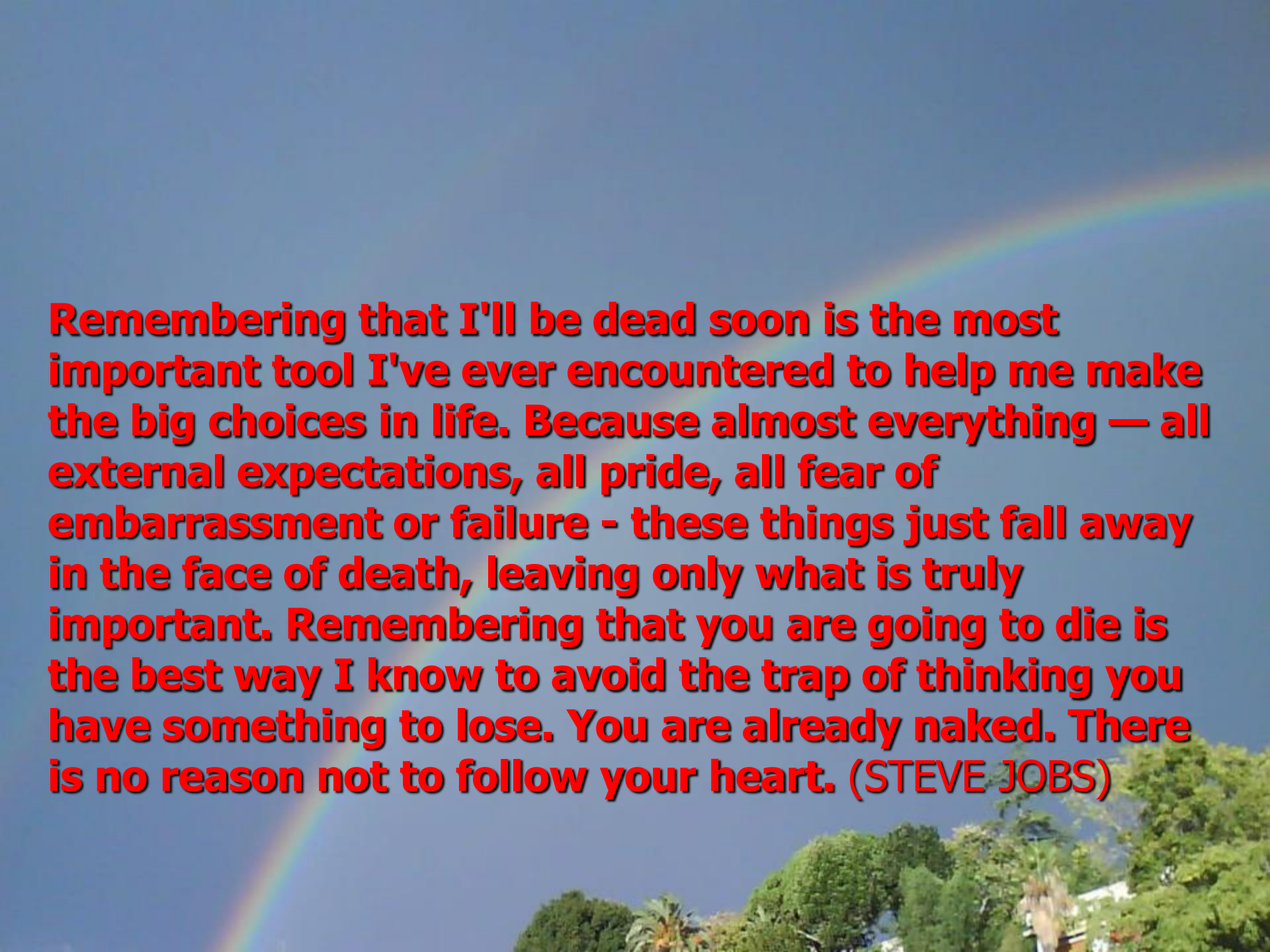
- My parents sent me the idea that nothing was impossible for me. Certainly the most important attitude is to try to avoid giving the child fears, anxieties and pain: I think this as a person and as a paediatrician.
- The credit is, above all, of the family that wants that child becomes a man, that girl is a woman, able to decide to operate or manage who should help them when it is really necessary.



MY LIFE

- I am a person who with his height of 127 cm in adolescence was able to experience the acceptance of this body that was not growing with all the turmoil of adolescents, but surrounded by a world, my family and friends, helped to accept this diversity.





Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything — all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart. (STEVE JOBS)

Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish



Grazie

