

Brendan Truong
Burden of the Eldest piece

The eldest child has it rough. They're often the pioneers of the family. Time blurs parents memories of youth, along with a generational gap that brings tides of changes, eldest children enter the unknown almost by themselves. Going through the school system, learning social cues, modern lifestyle tactics, the eldest child almost has a role to groom themselves and learn all this in order to impart this to their siblings and help their parents. Their younger siblings then can walk the path that the eldest has cleared for them.

I myself experienced this, especially so coming from an immigrant family. My parents' English is passable, but due to being immigrants they have different cultural norms or expectations. I always grew up different. Having school work to do at home, needing to learn Vietnamese, being held back from socializing with friends, etc. I'm of course very grateful for my parents, and it isn't their fault. Just fact alone, I grew up under different circumstances than the clean cut American boy. I had learned everything on my own, explored different paths and avenues of life, and grew up slightly socially awkward. I'm not courageous, I fear the unknown yet I was tossed to the unknown.

But these again, aren't complaints just statements. It was miserable to feel lost each and every year as I experienced new things, without my parents having the American experience or English to guide me or few people to resource with, but it truly developed my character and helped me be who I am today. I also feel more accomplished thanks to this sort of young held independence.

But the best of all, I'm grateful for this responsibility. I get to be the guide of my siblings, their teacher in so many areas. Be it in school work, things in life that I just had to experience because of the age, or however, I get to push my siblings forward, hop over hurdles, and be a source of ease in their life.

A large burden it is but a lovely burden to hold.

Perhaps it isn't a burden.

That sense of accomplishment and nurturing in teaching my siblings, or helping my parents, or just all in all being needed,

it's more so a blessing.

A blessing of the eldest moreso.

