

(Situation: In the party for celebrating my mother's job retirement)

(Acknowledgment)

Thank you. Thank you all for coming to the party. Your presence here means a lot to my mother and me.

(Mother's love)

I'd like to say thank you to my wonderful friends and family members for sharing the precious time with us and giving me the chance to share my gratitude for my mother's big love.

(Coffee shop dream)

My mother was born and raised in Miyazaki. She met my father while she was travelling in Tokyo. He was also from Miyazaki, but after university, he came to Tokyo to work at a big trading company. He was in charge of importing coffee beans and loved the coffee so much. He started to have a dream to have his own coffee shop and deliver the good coffee beans to the customers directly. My mother listened to his dream and said, "No." She asked him to wait at least until their children, my brother and I, go to the elementary school.

(Coffee shop's story)

So he did. More than 10 years later, he quit the company and started his small coffee shop. He was the owner and the only employee and enjoyed the work, because he had a lot of customers who loved the shop. But one day on his way home, he had a traffic accident and passed away. It was only one year after he started the shop. Left alone with two children, my mother decided to succeed his coffee shop because she wanted to take over my father's dream. She was so busy working in the shop but she always smiled at home and seemed to be happy. She loved the shop, and at the same time, deeply loved us, my brother and me. She always trusted us and supported us to do what we want to do.

(Mother's love and myself)

My mother taught me three important things; loving people around me, loving myself, living the precious life each day. To live the precious life, I wanted to enjoy my work just like my parents. After graduating the university I got a chance to work in Florida. Several years later I changed my jobs, following my heart, accepted a challenge to try something I had no experience before. Still I was only working with one of the biggest companies in the world, and to achieve my dream, I decided to quit the company and start up a small company with a friend. During all these times, my mother has always supported all of my challenges with lots of love.

(Mother's love and message to the audience)

I am here today, grateful for the love my mother gave me, aware that mothers' love is always selfless and generous. I am here thankful for all the love and support you have given to my mother and this coffee shop. She is closing the shop after working there alone for more than 20 years because she has a new dream. Her dream is to help other people to open their own coffee shops. So, I am here today wishing her the best of luck and asking you for your continuing love and support for my mother. Thank you.