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Different Birthday

We turn off the lights and the room becomes bright with the light of candles. We sing a birthday song. The candles are blown out. We say "Happy birthday!" A birthday is a special occasion for people who were born on the day. However, I don't think that they are the only people who find the day special. Last year, something happened to me and it triggered me to think so.

That night, I heard sad news. A woman who was living next-door died suddenly. She was not old and she had small children. I met her almost every morning and we greeted each other. She always said to me "Good morning" with a nice smile. I often played with her in my childhood. I was so shocked to hear the news. It was my first experience to lose somebody close to me. Then, I realized that living is wonderful and life is so precious.

Ten days later, my 16th birthday came. When I arrived at my classroom and opened the door, my classmates suddenly started singing a birthday song for me. They celebrated my birthday by saying "Happy birthday!" I also had a birthday party at home and my parents said to me, "Happy birthday!"

That birthday was a little different from the ones before. It was really special because I had experienced the shocking incident ten days before. I was really happy, but I couldn't help thinking how lucky I was to be here and how lucky I was to be congratulated by many people, including my parents. My neighbor couldn't have her birthday anymore and her children couldn't be congratulated by their mother anymore.

When I realized my good fortune, I also remembered the fact that I am here thanks to my parents. Then, I wanted to express gratitude to my parents for giving birth to me and for being alive. I thought it would be awkward to say "Thank you" to them directly, so I sent them an email saying "Thank you for giving birth to me." On the way home from school, my mother told me, "I wanted you to say that face to face." I felt some regret and decided that, next time, I would express myself in person. This email conversation was indirect and full of shyness, but I still felt a strong bond with my parents.

Usually, we tend to forget appreciation to our parents. I usually take it for granted that my mother does house chores every day and my father works from early morning till night for my family. I even feel irritated when they tell me to study. I often have quarrels with my parents. I'm sure this is the common case for many young people. I have some friends who say that they hate their parents.

I think our birthday should be the day when we show our appreciation to our parents for giving birth to us and taking care of us. A birthday should be the day when we remember we are here thanks to them.

So, I have a suggestion. Why don't you say thank you to your parents on your birthday? If you have such a day once a year, you can strengthen the bond with your parents every year and your relationship must be better. We have Mother's Day for mothers and Father's Day for fathers. Why not Parents' Day for parents? That is on your birthday.