

Grandma's flowers

Rosemary

Grandma loved flowers. Flowers were everywhere in her small but tidy house. Everything was in the right place. Grandma was a naturally tidy person. I am her eldest grandchild and am the apple of her eye. She was a graceful and elegant woman and had a strong affection for jasmine because she told me that it represents elegance and modesty.

Though my grandparents had been married for 50 years, Grandma always bought Grandpa the bird of paradise flowers. I always wondered why, but her faithfulness is beyond doubt. In return, Grandpa always brought red roses as they represent love. I have the greatest respect for their long-lasting love. They are the two of a kind. Despite hardships, they persisted in their efforts to maintain a happy marriage.

I learnt from them that mutual understanding is important in all relationships.

Grandma was very kind and sympathetic, my mother takes after her in that respect. I remembered I would pay Grandma a visit when I felt depressed, as I entered her house, I could smell lavender. And every time when I left, she prepared me with small refined bags of daisies and a small lotus. She wished that I could forget

the past, as what lotus represents. She had a gift for making people feel at ease.

I remembered Grandma bringing me a large bunch of Gerbera on my 18th birthday. It was the most beautiful bunch of flowers that I had ever had. She threw her arms around me, hugged me tight and said: 'You are the sunshine of my life.'

I also remembered when I had to leave Macao to pursue my secondary studies in England, Grandma handed me a bunch of Forget-me-nots. Definitely, I knew the full meaning of it.

I also remembered whenever I was hurt, she comforted me and said, 'Here, let Grandma kiss it better.' However, I couldn't do anything to relieve her pain when she was suffering from cancer.

After her death, I bought an Arbutus home in remembrance of her. Arbutus represents 'I love only thee' and this was exactly what I wanted to tell her.

Today is her 8th death anniversary. I suddenly have a feeling of guilt for the reason that I had never given her any flowers. 'Can you forgive me, Grandma?'

