**Becoming Dr. Q: My Journey from Migrant Farm Worker to Brain Surgeon**

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Dr. Q is a well-known neurosurgeon, and his adventurous book talks about how he became a brain surgeon from a farm worker, who worked in the tomato fields in central California.

I chose this book because it’s similar to my story. I have also come from another country and had many difficulties in the beginning, but many people have helped me through my way. It’s a great inspiration for me.

When Dr. Q was a young boy living in a small village near Mexicali, he lost his baby sister, Maricela. He admired Kaliman, a comic book superhero, as a young child. He was from a poor family. However, when he was five, he worked at his dad’s gas station. He pumped gas, fixed cars and trucks, and even drove them. He also worked in Palaco’s cotton field and felt no shame in being a field worker. He believed that no job was meaningless.

On the evening of January 1, 1987, Dr. Q made a plan to cross the border of Mexico and United States, but he was caught by the police and was kicked back to Mexico. He planned to cross the border again with better plan. After few hours, he went to the same place and did the same thing, as he did before, and crossed the fence. He ran so fast and reached the neighborhood where Fausto, his cousin, was waiting for him. Then he was told by Fausto to take the Los Angeles plane, so he can avoid all the checkpoints on the road. When Dr. Q arrived at the Los Angeles airport he had not found Fausto and he had no money left, and also, there was no place to go. Then while exploring the airport, he finally found Fausto, and he was so happy to see him. If a date that serves to have this memory, was his 19th birthday, January 2, 1987.

After few days, he was hired at a ranch and lived in his leaky trailer. A year later, his family moved to United States. After collecting some money, they all moved to Stockton. Then, Dr. Q started night classes at San Joaquin Delta College. He also started three courses at community college after he returned to Stockton after a trip to Mexicali. Then, on April 14, 1989, Dr. Q fell down into the tank car that carried liquefied petroleum. Finally Ramón, his brother-in-law, went in the tank and carried Dr. Q out, and immediately he was rushed to the nearest hospital. The doctors said that he was given another life because if there was anyone else in his place, they would have died.

Ten years later, after this incident, there was another incident to come in Dr. Q’s life. While in the hospital, treating a patient, he was holding a needle, not an ordinary hypodermic, and the patient lost his hand control and the needle flew in the air and stuck in Dr. Q’s hand. He knew he had to perform series of tests. He was told to take medications and drug therapies. He thought he will not survive this time. He remembered the moral, that was told on Día de los Muertos, if you cheat death once and send its armies packing, it returns even more lethally the next time. He was like a dead man, but he was safe.
During a lunch break at the college, two girls came to meet Dr. Q. He tried to get away from there because of knowing little English. Then, one of the girl named Anna asked his friend Mike to introduce Dr. Q to her, but Mike refused. Finally, one day, they introduced each other and became friends later on. After getting his associate’s degree at community college, he won scholarship to UC Berkeley.

One day, while on work at a store in the mall, Dr. Q saw Anna and asked her if he can mail letters to her since they were living away from each other and they can’t meet. He was happy that she gave her address and now he could have a courtship. Because of Dr. Q’s hard studying, he passed anthropology class with an A. He was so proud of himself that he can ever get out of those fields and be able to study. Then he realized that he was meant to be a doctor. He didn’t know where to start for being a doctor, so he got help from three of his mentors, and he started doing lab work in neurobiology.

However, Dr. Ballard, his mentor, wanted Dr. Q to see Harvard Medical School and join it, but Dr. Q couldn’t afford for the trip to Boston to see it. So, Dr. Ballard paid for the ticket and sent him to Boston. He met two mentors there. And, finally, he decided to attend Harvard Medical School to get his medical degree. Then one day on a Friday night, Dr. Peter Black, the Harvard professor and chief of neurobiology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, invited Dr. Q to see the brain surgery in which the patient was going to be alive. Dr. Q had only one answer to say, yes. He was so amazed to see the human brain. At this time, he felt that brain surgeon was the career, he was looking for. He wanted to make sure with Anna that will she be okay after they get married and have childrens because not only he has to commit himself to it, but also his family too. However, in their conversation, Anna showed interest and excitement and didn’t question anything.

After that, Dr. Q and Anna decided to move out of Manteca, where he was living with Anna’s family. They went to cross-country and got an apartment. One day, after medical school, when Dr. Q returned home, he got to know that his apartment was broken and everything was stolen. He got help from many people and got an apartment in a safe area of Brooklyn Village. Then Anna and Dr. Q decided to marry, but not have a costly wedding. When he told Ed Kravitz about their plan, he told them to have a little ceremony at his house in Cambridge. It was the best wedding they had ever attended with lots of love.

In 1997, Dr. Q becomes an American citizen. Three years after Dr. Q’s wedding, they had a girl named Gabbie and two other childrens named David and Olivia. Dr. Q wasn’t able to give much time to his family, but he did the best he could. He completed his residency in neurosurgery at the University of California, San Francisco, and also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in developmental and stem cell biology. He survives a few brushes with death, but the hard work always pays off. Then, he gets a job at Johns Hopkins Medical Center. He thanks every mentor that has helped him and inspired him like Kaliman. He becomes the well-known neurosurgeon from a migrant farm worker.