

Beauty in the Struggle

By Duan G.

Without struggle, what is success?
Without success, what is true victory?
And without a date, what is history?
Can you believe there's beauty in the struggle, in your struggle?
Resilience in its purest form
When odds are against you, and you still perform
Wrapped in a dark place
Yet still you shine
What's the beauty in your struggle?
Well, here's mine
Overcoming the impossible
Going through every obstacle
And making the best in every situation
Turning my cell into a classroom so I won't fail
Letting my struggle help me prevail
What's winning, if you never failed?
And what's failing, if you never won?
Find the collateral beauty in your struggle
Embrace your failures so your wins can be 10 times as great
So can you find the beauty in your struggle
Because here's mine

Dear Duan, Beautiful! Our struggles make us. I admired how you shared how you've turned your challenges into something positive by turning your cell into a classroom. Even when we are "wrapped in a dark place" we are still worthy of love, and sometimes we can't see that until we recognize the beauty of the hardships we faced. I'm sure this piece will move many others tonight. -Casey

Dear Duan; I like the way that you crafted this poem--starting by asking your readers if they think there is beauty in the struggle - in our struggle. Then you shift-up and share the beauty in your struggle. You give us time to think about the question - and then we learn from you. And pretty much all of us have some struggle!! You show the wisdom to prevail in yours!! Keep up the great writing!! Debbie

Dear Duan, Your poem reminded me that it is so hard for all of us to find "beauty in the struggle." You remind us of that and then you open yourself up to share with us how YOU found hope and beauty within the walls of your cell. Your example and your vulnerability really draw the reader in to look closer at our lives and what is hard and how we can find beauty in that. Thank you for both your vulnerability and for encouraging us to look for hope - because we can find it. - Esther



LO VE this!

Powerful words right there, Duan. I really needed to hear that, thank you for your insight. Indeed, what is success without struggle? Thank you for sharing your work.
-Leena A.

DUAN, WE SO OFTEN USE THE TERM "COLLATERAL DAMAGE." I LOVE HOW YOU FLIP THAT AND WRITE ABOUT THE "COLLATERAL BEAUTY" THAT COMES FROM STRUGGLE. KEEP ON STRUGGLING, LEARNING, GROWING, PERSEVERING, AND WRITING! HANNAH

Dear Duan, I feel so empowered after reading your poem! It's something I could read each day to remind myself how much learning, growth, and resilience comes from both the ups and the downs. We sometimes don't associate "beauty" with "struggle," but it really seems like the perfect connection. I've probably learned a lot more from those times of struggle than anything else in my life, and it sounds like you have too. The lines about failing and winning especially stuck with me. Thank you for these powerful messages and words of wisdom to take forward! -Adrian