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Gifts of My Parents

Frank Zahn

My father's roar and firm right hand
disciplined me. From him, I learned
respect for the mind, hard work, and
determination. The touch of arrogance
I picked up from him heightened the
competitive spirit in those around me
and kept me at my best. I respected him
more than anyone in my life, although
he never understood the passions that
prowled within me and gave rise to my
restless and often rebellious behavior.

My mother tried many times to reassure
my father that all I needed was a little
more patience, time to grow, and prayer.
Her good humor, gentle touch, and
soothing voice nurtured me. From her,
I learned to temper my passions
and the gifts of my father with the faith,
love, and charity that give purpose to
a life caught up in the struggle to prosper.

The gifts of one parent without the gifts of
the other would have left me incomplete.