



JIM, A FATHER

Dorothy C. Yang

My son, Jim, is married to a lovely and beautiful 4th generation Japanese American in Hawaii. After having 3 sons, T J, age 7, Jordan and Cory age 4, they long for a daughter. Finally they are blessed with a lovely little princess, Sara, who is now age 1.

My daughter has two girls, Lauren age 11 and Elizabeth age 8. I was told by my brother that I have three "Hou (好)" representing 3 grandsons and three granddaughters. The word "Hou" is made of a girl (女) and a boy (子). Now you can understand that I have three "Hous" (好).

Do you have children who misbehave at meal time especially with working parents? Naturally we think it is for attention. Many parents cater to their children's demand in order to have a peaceful meal. Once I asked Elizabeth why she misbehaved. She answered, "It is fun." But do you know what happens in my son's family? Whenever any of his children misbehaves at meal time he would take them to another room. 5 to 10 minutes later they would return to the dining table and behave as if nothing has happened. I was amazed.

I think that I will never forget this incident. On Jim and Pat's tenth wedding anniversary we were all in Honolulu. We offered to babysit the

four Children so that they could go out to celebrate. During our dinner time at home everything went well until Jordan refused to finish his plate. We used both hard and soft ways to make him listen to us. He threw up a temper tantrum. Uncle Raymond took them to bed. He sang every school song he could remember to them. It was funny because Raymond cannot carry a tune well.

The next morning Jim asked about the behavior of the children. I did not want to tell tales of my grandchildren. T J told his daddy about Jordan's misbehaviour. Sometime later in the morning Jordan came to me in tears and said that he was sorry. Then he mumbled something that I could not understand. He went to Raymond also in tears. Then I found out that his daddy wanted him to apologize for 4 things: for not obeying, for not showing respect, for having a temper tantrum and another thing for which I could not remember.

What is Jim's secret for the boys to obey him? Before the boys go to sleep he hugs everyone of them with a bear hug. Jim never experienced his own father's love. He is giving the children what he has missed. I am very proud of my son and happy for my grandchildren for having such a wonderful father. 