



BECOMING MY MOTHER

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WHILE I WAS ALWAYS AWARE THAT MY MOM had inspired me, it's only as I have crossed over the half-century mark that I realize how much she has done so, and how I am actually *becoming* her in so many ways. Whether I'm demanding my due or doing my duty, my mom has been an inspirational constant in my life. But the biggest impact, by far, was how she taught me to accept my own uniqueness in the face of daunting personal challenges.

One thing my mom always excelled at was getting what she had coming to her. I remember once when she was flying to visit my sister. My roommate and I had taken her to the airport and were waiting with her at the ticket counter at the gate (this was pre-9/11). When they announced that her flight had been canceled, I could see her blood start to boil. She approached the airline