

Sister and Brother.

First, their mother abandoned them and told them the reason she left was their father; then his sister left to be with that same mother, and she also blamed her father, even announcing that she no longer had a father.

Her brother's life instantly became a void which couldn't hold him, and he fell into a depression, unable to escape having been left again. He didn't confront or find answers to his unresolved questions and issues, and he too blamed his father for his sister leaving. His hatred, disrespect, and disloyalty were without limits or boundaries.

Soon after leaving, both children would fail financially and, needing help, sought out their father. He enabled them, expecting success, and he did so for two reasons:

- 1- because he knew they had been traumatized by their mother deserting them, and
- 2- he believed they would learn and appreciate how kind and caring a father he was.

Later, behind his back, his children's hatred and lies turned into accusations that he had abused them emotionally. This bothered the man so deeply that he decided to prove his innocence by taking a polygraph test. The test used the latest technologies and was expensive. He took the lengthy test, and the last question was the most important: had he ever abused his children? He answered no, and, several hours later, the test came back showing he had answered every question truthfully. After informing his children, he offered to pay the cost of the polygraph test if his children would take it, and they both declined.

Years passed. After not hearing from his son for five years, his son would show up, broke and homeless. The man, with arms open, welcomed his son into his home. Soon, however, the man saw, in his son's actions, that he still meant to hurt him emotionally, and that his hatred and disloyalty toward him were as real and present as before. Nineteen months later, and after what

was to his father a non-consequential question for his son, his son exploded in violence, leaving windows, blinds, and doors broken. His father, feeling he would be physically attacked, used his ability to defuse volatility and was not harmed. After reiterating many times, using hate-filled sarcasm, that his father was an “old man”, the son, as he angrily packed to leave, threw myriad tools and scattered debris angrily, even throwing tools onto the dirt. Bags of trash were tossed out of his pickup’s bed and left for the “old man” to deal with. The beautiful guest unit he had built, in case his son ever needed a place to stay, was left a stinking, partially destroyed, never-cleaned, disgusting mess. His son drove off, not caring about the “old man” that he left to clean and repair what he had never appreciated.

The old man, still nursing a broken foot from a hiking accident two years earlier, cleaned up and, over time, would fix what had been broken and neglected.

Early in his children’s lives, it had been the three of them for nine years. The man changed diapers, was both mom and dad, went back to college, got a good-paying job teaching English and math at the local Junior College, and finally they bought their first home. They all did their best; the man worked hard, the children behaved, and they happily succeeded. He was strict about some things, but major problems began in their teenage years because each wanted to control their lives despite having little life experience. The man was experienced and grounded, while his two teenagers weren’t. But it’s impossible to advise those who don’t like or respect you. He didn’t deserve their hatred and disrespect then, and he didn’t deserve it now. The man remained loyal to his children, despite bailing them out of failure time and time again, from paying their rents more times than he can remember, to flights home from foreign countries, to large amounts of cash for cars, trucks, computers, and items they said they needed without ever gaining their respect. He did what he did because he loved, trusted, and cared for them. He

didn't expect repayment, yet he hoped their feigned friendship and love would become real, but that hasn't happened yet.

He believed he had been a good parent. He taught them how to use a spoon the right way up. He gave his love unconditionally, even when he got nothing in return.

For most people, parenting is literally on-the-go learning, with little to no time to read or ask questions. The man had an unconscious expectation that others would behave like he did. He didn't know where that expectation came from, but he truly expected his children, all people, really, to behave as intelligent, positive, caring, and honest people. His motto for living was: Always do the next right thing.

The man was baffled when they and others didn't just behave as he did.

Written by Peter Skeels © 9-16-2026