



## The love on the other side of the glass

By Polo, 28 years old, 5 years on death row

Visitation is always something to look forward to, but it's much more than that, especially if you have a little son. For me, I've never been able to hold my son in my arms, but I've been able to see and communicate with him since I've been incarcerated. I can still remember the first day when I saw my little son at visitation. He was so small that he couldn't open his eyes all the way yet. I wished I could have reached out to touch and hold him, but it's always a glass that separates us. When I first saw him, I couldn't believe this was a kid that came from me and I'm a father.

Being in my situation, I'm always grateful to at least be able to see him with my own eyes, right in front of me. As the months and years go by I watch him grow from being that baby that couldn't open his eyes yet to walking, running and even talking. Not only am I able to see him but... I'm able to talk to him, now that he learned to talk. Now every time that we see each other it's like he's learned more and grew even more every time. I'm always thrilled to see how much he's grown and how much he's learned. Really wish I could do much more for him than being the dad only able to see him from the inside. I know he don't understand much about what's going on but he's always as happy as I am when we see each other. I can tell that he wants to give me a hug and touch me just from the taps he does on the glass when we're talking. It's sad that we have never been able to touch each other or give each other a hug. We have to work with what is allowed so seeing each other and talking to each other is a lot better than nothing, so I've learned to make the best of it.

I do wish/hope that one day I'll be able to give him the hugs that are much needed and show him the love I've been having for him on the other side of the glass. Until then, I have no choice but to watch him grow more and more over the years to come. I will never understand why we can't have physical contact with our family or friends. They rather treat us like animals in a zoo... only being able to look through a glass to see the other side of the world.

If a person makes a mistake in life, it doesn't mean you treat them like an animal. Everyone makes mistakes, that's how we learn and get better. I grew up learning that no one is perfect... Even if you try your best to be that perfect person. Obviously, you have to be perfect in life to get treated like a human being. At least that's how our world is today. Hopefully one day in this world, even if you make a mistake they'll understand that we are all still human beings.

When things change and get better I'll be able to give my son the hugs and love he truly needs.

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