

# My Plans for My Future by Haruye Imahori

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When I entered high school I was asked what I wanted to be after I graduated. At that time I never thought seriously what I wanted to be so I thought I would like to try the commercial course to see how I would like it. As each semester went by I began to enjoy bookkeeping the most. To me, bookkeeping became my favorite subject and I looked forward to that class every day. Bookkeeping wasn't easy for me at first and even when I got deeper into that subject and had to struggle with it, I always had a satisfaction of getting results.

Then came April 27, 1942. I entered Manzanar with a mixed and uncertain feeling. I had to leave many of my friends and the school I always hope to graduate from. It was after I came to Manzanar that I began to wonder, "What does the future hold for me?" Before coming to Manzanar I never thought seriously about my future because I was satisfied with my life as I was living it before the war began.

When I was in the eleventh grade someone told me, "Life is what you make it." I don't know why but I have never forgotten these words. These words continually came back to me during my first six months in Manzanar. In those months I didn't do anything because I had nothing to keep me occupied and I became bored with this life.

One day I came to the conclusion that I would like to become a bookkeeper but I had another problem to take into consideration. That problem was would I be able to go to a business college after I graduated high school. I know that while I am in this center my parents will not let me this camp by myself. They also have the idea that a girl doesn't really need a higher education than that of high school because they believe that a girl's future is to get married and have a family. I don't agree with their belief. I believe whether you are a boy or a girl you should receive all of the education you can because it won't hurt you to know anything. A girl's place doesn't always have to be in a home, though it is true that it is natural for a girl to get married and have a family. Whether the girl prefers a career to a married life is up to her.

When school began I was determined to take any subjects pertaining to business. Now that a Junior College is established and offers accounting I shall enter after I graduate high school. Since Junior College classes are held in the evenings I would like to get a job doing some kind of an office work pertaining to bookkeeping. I am determined that each day I will accomplish something for my life in the future.

When I chose bookkeeping as my choice of work I chose it not only because it is one work I am interested in but because no matter where I live I will have to know something about keeping books of my own. I have known some people who because they didn't keep books didn't know whether their business was an asset to them or a liability. Some paid more operating expenses for their business than they had profit but they didn't realize it because no books were kept in detail.

I have heard that to really become to know your work and do it well, you must work from the bottom up. I believe this because even if we do try to learn and do a thing well there is still more to be learned in that work. I intend to work from the bottom up when I begin to work as a bookkeeper.

When the war is over and I leave this camp what I will do then will depend greatly on the outcome of the war. Even when the world is torn up and upset I still have to live and plan for the future I know there will be many changes which I will have to become adjusted to after the war. The path I take won't be a bed full of roses but will mean a lot of work, determination and courage. When I and many others leave it will mean looking for a job.

Jobs may be hard to find because when the boys come back from war they will be looking for jobs too and many factories which are vital when there is a war will lower their rate of production so that they may not need so many employees as before which also means that those who are employed now many be out of jobs when the war is over and looking for them the same time I and many more are released from the relocation centers.

When I am twenty-one I would like to be independent from the family and see what kind of life one leads when they are single and free. I think that, that life could be very helpful to one's character in making that person think wisely and also they will learn something more about life and help them to get along with people outside of their family. It is more than a wish to me to be independent because all of my life and even now I have always been told what to do and what not to do. I don't believe that a child should be treated that way because I know that I will never be able to think clearly and wisely for myself when the time comes. I would always be dependent on my parents. Sometimes I get into arguments with my parents when I object to being told to do this and not to do that. When I have to make decisions today I have a tendency to hesitate on whether or not my parents will approve of my decisions but I have tried to think for myself as much as possible and to think clearly.

I would like to tour the United States and see all of these beautiful places I have read about and some of the museums which have of these historic documents and arts which I have read about in my history class. I would also like to travel abroad in Europe but I know that it will be so changed after this war because many of the beautiful buildings and places have been or is partially destroyed. Up to now I haven't had much opportunity to travel. I think it would be fun and also very worthwhile.

Marriage is one big step a person takes when he or she gets married. To me it is something that has got to be a success and happens once in a life time. It also means a partnership for life and not one sided. By that I mean each should give and share alike and not where the husband tells the wife what to do all the time and the wife always saying yes or vice versa.

With marriage you usually associate children. I would like to have some children. They give you something more to look forward to in life and they give you a sense of humor. They also keep you in contact with the younger generation. I think it is very important to keep in contact with the younger generation because I know that at home my parents' ideas and mine sometimes don't agree. My parents were brought up in very different surroundings and customs than I and they have a tendency to keep those customs and the way they were brought up in mind and try to bring my brother and sisters and myself up in the way they were. To me, those ideas or customs seem very old fashion and yet when I have children I know that they will think the same of me as I did my parents. I think it is important to keep in contact with the younger generation and try to understand their point of view because if I don't it may cause many unnecessary arguments between my children and myself. I want to grow up with my children and have fun with them.

I think the future of a mother is to see their children grow up into womanhood or manhood and give them an education to prepare them for whatever their future holds for them.

To summarize what I have written is this. I want an education so that I can become an bookkeeper. I want to be independent to see what kind of a life it is and to travel. I also want to be free and do what I want to do. I yearn to do what I want to do because up to now I've nearly always done things the way I'm told to do. After that comes marriage and children and to see them grow up into manhood or womanhood.

As I write about my future I begin to wonder how much of my plans will become a reality. Something may occur which may change my whole life but I will have to live my life accordingly.