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What Being Tall Means to Me

Being tall, to most, is a simple attribute that elevates one's eyesight to be slightly above other people's. Some think being tall is only a thing to put in a Tinder profile to get more people to swipe right. However, I, like my tall brethren, know that being tall comes with responsibility. When someone needs something off the top shelf, we're there. When a balloon floats to the top of a room at a birthday party, we're there. When a poster needs to be hung up slightly above the average person's reach because it would "look better", we're there.

You'd think that it's all sunshine and rainbows in the life of a tall person, but what people don't see are the injustices we face in an average-sized world. It doesn't stop at shower heads being placed too low to get the top of your head without ducking. There are other much more dangerous obstacles placed in our lives. When walking on the street, trees are a tall person's worst enemy. Unassuming trees that make a bland walkway more palatable to city dwellers ensure that tall people are smacked in the face by a branch anytime their attention is drawn away from the path ahead. Many things, it seems, are designed to smack tall people in the head. The door that's a bit too small, the overhang above a structure that's just above eyeline, the cords on ceiling fans that tickle our heads, there are many adversaries to tall people in this world. Some people even have the gall to say, "Pay attention to your surroundings," after you hit your head. This is the worst thing you can say to a tall person. The reason we don't see the things that hit our head is because often, we are looking down as to not step in a wad of gum or to not fall off a curb.

With all the obstacles we have to face, you'd think that being tall puts us at a disadvantage, but I would heavily disagree. If the cost of seeing the world from a new perspective is the occasional headbutt, I'd say it's a small price to pay. Being tall has allowed me

to see the world in a way that other people might not see. Just as I can see over a crowd of people to find an exit in a party, someone shorter might see the path of least resistance through the people. Only by combining and sharing our viewpoints can we truly grow and progress as a people. Being tall doesn't make me necessarily better or worse off than anyone else, it just allows me to use my unique point of view to help the others around me as I would hope they help me when I need it.

Being tall is an attribute that gets overlooked by most people, but it's something that holds much more meaning to people who understand it. It means you are responsible for helping to do tasks others are incapable of doing. It means playing basketball, so you can farm up rebounds to pass to your faster teammates. It means putting up with obstacles that endanger the lives of us big folk. But above all, being tall means getting a new perspective on the world around us. By being tall, I've learned to appreciate the viewpoints of others as I would hope they do mine. So just as they might ask me to get a book off the top shelf, I might ask them to get something from the bottom shelf.