

# The GREAT why?

By Christina Faria, a young woman who has cerebral palsy  
to Patrick, and eight year old with cerebral palsy

To Patrick and Everyone:

The great question of why never fails to cause anger to swell from the depths of my soul. I had to sit on this for a while before I answered. I guess when we are smaller we start out with smaller easier questions and are temporarily satisfied with insignificant answers. "Mommy how come I can't play musical chairs?" "Because God made you "special" and you were not meant to be able to play musical chairs, but you can play Pin the tail on the donkey." We all know though that the real question of WHY has no answer.

When I was little I used to have all these great ideas of how I came to have CP. God had a big wheel like in wheel of fortune that he spun to tell the story of everyone's life. Some would become doctors or lawyers and when god spun the wheel on my life it landed on the CP spot. Or, as some people believe, maybe my CP was a sign of the devil a punishment. Or maybe my mom got hit in the stomach with something so hard that it knocked my head. Still maybe we are really here to learn lessons and it was my turn to learn what it is like to be disabled. I could go on forever.... I still do not know!!

Sometimes I think it would be nice to have someone to blame maybe a doctor who screwed up or an abuse situation, but even if I did I would still have CP - knowing why won't change that. That one simple fact is the hardest to accept. I can tell you right now I have not fully accepted it yet. Nothing will EVER make CP go away. I still have trouble not choking when I say that.

Patrick for the rest of your life there are going to be days when you will wake up filled with anger and pain inside that is unimaginable to the "normal" people in your life. You'll be thinking, "Darn it, I want to be able to hold a cup and walk with it to the living room couch. Or I hate that kid for being able to rollerblade. Why him and not me?" I understand all that!! It is perfectly fine to feel that way. If you want to scream I HATE CP go ahead. It does stink!!

The list of things you can't do could probably fill a book store and as you get older it will grow but so will the list of things you can do. In your own time you will find your own way of dealing with the why question. I know now that I can use my experiences and my writing ability to help people get a glimpse of our world. I have something to contribute to the world that I wouldn't be able to contribute if not for the CP. I'm not saying that makes it any better or that I wouldn't trade it all in an instant for a pair of "normal" legs but it helps. I promise Patrick you do have a purpose.

For now just remember that you are a person first and a person with a disability second. When you want to yell and scream, I am here to listen because I have been and still am going through this battle day by day.

{{{{{{{{{{hugs to everyone}}}}}}}}

Christina

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