

RESPECT

Written by

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Photograph: VCG/Getty Images



**EXT. PLAZA - TOWN - NIGHT**

TONY (38, spare, colourful glasses) and ELENA (9, suspicious of everything, with a weighty fringe) are collected with many others around a fiery pit of hot coals.

ELENA

And why?

TONY

(excitable)

Got to respect your elders.

Elena looks around: excited faces. And some nervous faces.

A young man hops barefoot over the coals, grimacing.

The crowd WHOOP in applause.

TONY (CONT'D)

(nodding)

He respects his elders.

Elena checks around the group again.

Tony bounces on his heels, buzzing.

ELENA

Where are they?

TONY

Doesn't matter. He *respects* them.

Another man, younger and fitter than the last, psyches himself up at the pit's edge, readying his run.

Tony whips off his shirt, holds it out to Elena.

TONY (CONT'D)

Look after this.

The younger man bolts straight across the hot coals, strong.

The crowd ROARS.

Tony bends to untie his shoes.

Elena watches as the man who's just finished his coal-dash is hugged and congratulated for his *respect* by other men of a similar age and build.

ELENA

Okay.