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## Old age and feeling significant

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My mother is 82 years old, with a vibrant mind and though slightly infirm owing to her age, yet desiring to contribute in whatever way she can.

My daughter and her child were visiting us and my mother fawned over both of them, offering to buy my daughter and her child different eatables. While my daughter was indulgent I was getting irritated with my mother, for she kept insisting on buying stuff which I thought my daughter would not need.

My mother was upset with my remonstrating her and began to weep. My daughter felt obliged to pacify her, which she did successfully. As my mother retired to her room, my daughter, though only in her 30s, told me something which struck me as true. She said, "Pa, grand-mom wants to feel important and not think she is a burden. She also wants to contribute in whatever way she can so she feels significant and important. Let's therefore allow her to buy what she wants, and even if I do not need it, I will find somebody to give it to."

My daughter's message to me was – do not be dismissive of old people.

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