

第 30 篇 [五種難忘氣味] [Five Unforgettable Smells]

命題大意：寫出五種此生難忘的香味

寫作大意：如題。

ASSIGNMENT: 1/22/2003

The smell of your home made cookie or a certain someone's musky perfume is hard to forget. Write down five memorable smells and the time in your life that you associate with them

WRITING: 1/29/2003

The unforgettable five smells to me are that of: (1) mother's milk, (2) country farm, (3) book, (4) herbal medicine and (5) cigar and cigarette. The following is an explanation of my time and life association with them.

(1) Mother's milk smell

Though I was told I had been fed with mother's milk, I am unable to recall its smell. I was reminded of its scent and my days as an infant when my wife and I were raising the five children in our mid ages. The mother's milk smell evaporated from the bodies of our children mixed with smells of sweat, soap and even some of their excrements of the old time are still memorial to me although they are now over 40 to 50 years old.

(2) Country farm land smells

I grew up from a country side where I lived until since 18 years old. The scents of the wild flowers, grasses, soils and mud, mixed with the smells of animals and poultries and burning weeds, remain strong in my memory..

(3) Book smells

Like most Chinese of my age, I have read the Chinese old time printed books and the modern books. These two kind of books made of entirely different types of papers and inks emit quite different smells when they are opened. Paper is said to be invented by Chinese some 2000 years old and printing art 1400 years old. Though modern printing methods are more commonly used, the older methods can still be found now. I like books so I like both types of the smells.

(4) Herbal medicine smell.

I have experienced both the Chinese herbal medicines and the modern commonly used medicines. A Chinese herbal medicine stewed in a clay pot has a heavy peculiar smell that fill the entire house for several hours once used. The smell is no longer objectionable to me because I got used to it.

(5) Cigarette smell.

Smokers were almost every where about 30 years ago. The strong odor has left me with a distaste for such items. Thanks to the governments of most countries, smoking now is prohibited in many places. Smoking is said to be still very popular in China. I was once told that in a hotel conference room, the heavy smoky air even caused the building smoke detector to sound an alarm.