

第 87 篇 [上述故事的繼續] [Continue the scene with the same characters]

命題大意：如題

寫作大意：撰寫“天年”計劃。

ASSIGNMENT for 9/22/2004: (9/15/2004)

Continue the scene with the same characters. Keeping the viewpoint of the protagonist, create problem for your protagonist.

SUBMISSION 9/22/2004

Minshan (1926- ) and I (1921- ) married 56 years ago. Most of the time in the past, she had been taking care of me, five children and the family chore, let me concentrate to work for livelihoods and the children striving ahead. She had been showing great strength in her physical and mental endurance, overshadowing more than ten years after our retirement in 1985. Until 4/20/2002 she suddenly fell sick till now. From that time on, our family has been reversed. Now I have to take care of her and the chore but less the children now all independent. Minshan has passed the worst of six times being hospitalized, and now is stabilized though not yet cured. We all feel cozier but still sense the doomed big problem ahead, not only because of mommy's ailment, but also daddy's aging. The severity of the problem in our eyes is different. Nobody wants to talk it bluntly for fear of hurting and embarrassing.

The worry of poor Minshan was revealed recently in her answering with my help a HMO HEALTH PLAN Questionnaire, asking "In the past year, have you had two weeks or more during which you felt sad, blue or depressed or when you lost interest or pleasure in the things you usually cared about or enjoyed?". On the "yes" or "no", Minshan bluntly told me mark "Yes".

Worries of the children are conceivable. They are scattering thousands miles away, busy in their own careers and family things not at all prepared to care the long time self- sustained parents especially the things of parental sickness and death.

As the patriarch of the family, I have been envisioning the above problem since several years ago and secretly taking actions. I see the whole problem largely in three phases as follows: 1. How to handle the severe sickness and deaths of the two elderly. 2. How to take care the remaining of properties after our death. 3. How to well settle the family remaining of memoir values such as writings, documents, photos, hand scripts etc. For that purpose, I have worked out a will with Minshan several years ago and created a homepage to accommodate most of my writings, and tried to sort the books, clothing and stuff aiming to do a part of the above items 2 and 3 but leaving the item 1 intact yet. Now I consider it is the time to consider seriously a plan to cover all phases more in detail and bring them on the table for discussion.

In 6/3 this summer President Reagan passed away at an age of 93. He was praised by the world not only because of his achievements but also his well planning of his passing away so orderly and precisely. With this example and inspiration, I drafted a plan covering the details in the above phases 1,2 and 3 in three presumed cases: father dies first, mother dies first, and parents all passed away. I first showed the draft to Minchin and then emailed to the five children asking them review and comment saying to be discussed in our prearranged reunion in the late June. All the above were carried out on time very smoothly and fruitfully to be described in the next portion of the story.