

給孫兒女每月一信 (monthly letter to grandchildren, March 24, 2002)

親愛的孫兒女們：

上月給你們的電子郵件2/27/2002發出, 3/1/2002 接萬能回信如下：

[原文 見後述. 大意为: "祖父母大人: 細讀二月份每月一信後, 我急忙在官方歷史網絡頻道中搜索你所要的錄影帶. 名稱為: "覆蓋中的歷史, 緬甸叢林戰. 可從下述網鏈....."] 我當時很高興立即給他下面簡單回信, 囑他率性替

我購下一件寄到我手中, 按原信承諾一併獎賞. 一星期後(3/8), 我果然收到一UPS送來的錄影帶郵件. 打開 和 奶奶 一同在TV上觀看, 發現正是我那晚在TV上所看到的內容. 當然滿意, 開了一 24.95 元的寄庭堅轉交不在話下.

今天我寫這信給你們是以另一角度來看這事體. 我上月信寄給你們信的主要用意是對你們利用電腦網絡來找資料的一次 "機會教育", 以競賽方式來引起注意和提高

興趣. 使你們意識到用網絡尋找資料的經濟價值. 當然也是逗著你們好玩的. 這一階段是圓滿過去了.

以往我向你們講過, 幾乎每一件事都有其正反兩面. 我現認為: 上月的信, 如不加以說明, 容易在你們幼年的心靈中強化功利主義. 誤解為任何事都要用錢來推動來誘導. 這是大謬不然的. 我要告訴你們. 人在 "義" 之所在, 不必要任何代價和酬勞主動努力去做甚至犧牲的. 我回想一生中做過無數次義務性的大小事. 不但沒有考慮報酬, 而且 冒大危險. 上次信中所講我們全班同學被徵調去軍中一年就是無數大小事例中之一. 我深知你們每人以替長輩為樂. 決不會考慮報酬的.

我把上述這層理念說清楚後心中更暢快. "義" "利" 之辨在中西文化都是很重要的. 如果你們對這點還不十分透徹, 希望找你們的父母作更充份的說明.

" Dear Grandchildren:

Shortly after our last monthly letter of February emailed you all on 2/27/2002,

we received an email of 3/1/2002 from Jeff as follows:

"Hello Grandpa and Grandma:

After thoroughly reading the February Monthly Letter, I eagerly searched the Internet for what you requested, And after a quick visit to History Channel's official site, I found what I believe is the video you watched, "History Undercover: Jungle battle: Burma." It can be viewed at this link:

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Love, Jeff"

After reading the above I immediately emailed a reply saying: "...I am glad you search out the video tape I need. You deserve my 100 bucks incentive . But why don't you get another 100 bucks easy money by ordering the same for me as I promised ?..... "

Then, only a week later on 3/8, we received an UPS parcel of a videotape.

After viewing it on TV, we found it is just the same as I watched as I mentioned

in last monthly letter. The jungle fighting in Burma of the W.W.II. I also learned that Chris was the person placed the order to purchase. Then I mailed a check of \$224.95 to their father to transfer to the two boys.

Today I am writing you regarding the above story in a different mood and concern. As I told you in a previous letter, most things in the world could be viewed on different angles. You are all well taught younger generation of us. We hope you would never think what I have done is only to stimulate profit seeking. My primary intention is rather to rouse up your interest of "search engine" application. Now I must seriously tell you that people in the world used to do a lot of things without considering any reward. Personally I have had numerous such experiences in my life. Love you all and best wishes.

Grandpa (previewed by grandma)