

給孫輩第四封信 4/6/00

親愛的孫兒女們：

今年起每月給你們一信。日子過得快，這已是第四封了。上月給你們的信中引述一網友所寄關於“友誼週”的詩句。你們想必喜歡。這封信中我首先要講的是上(三)月在台灣的一件大事--- 三一八台灣民進黨的陳水扁呂秀蓮當選為正副總統。這事件對台灣，海峽兩岸，甚至全球華人都有非常大有關係。你們也許年輕，多數不在台灣，對此未必關心。關於這事件對你們未來的影響，你們不妨在閒暇試和你們父母討論。簡單的說，這將影響兩岸關係的好壞和統一的時間。以及整個中華民族的興衰。關係於海外華人的形象。所以這信中略為一提。

另一有趣的事。3/25/00 人民日報海外版摘錄一則『美國選出千年之字“她”』的消息。報導美國方言學會不久前在芝加哥舉行年會。選舉 1999年 年度之字，“十年之字”，“世紀之字”，和“千年之字”。 “千年之字”的榮譽竟被“她”(SHE)字所得。受提名競選的字包括：“書”，“自由”，“政府”，“歷史”，“正義”，“新聞”，“自然”和“OK”等。進入決賽時只剩下“科學”和“她”兩個。結果“她”字以 35 票對 27 票獲勝。據說 12 世紀以前英文中沒有 SHE 這字。也許拜維京人(蠻族?) 入侵之賜，女性才有專用的名詞。在中國直到二十世紀初倡導新文學時才有“她”字的翻譯。“她”的能獲選，顯然包括而不限於 ①表示女性的重要，特別需要尊重，愛護，和同情。你們可能有更多的理由和感想。

4/6/00 洛杉磯時報有一文章報導現在在美國有很多公司在印度建立分支辦公室，完全利用印度遠較廉價的勞力，用電腦互聯網，將以往必須在美國國內做的文書事務性工作改在印度完成。大大節省成本。事實上我不久前替這裡的湖南聯誼會會刊安排，由我侄孫女文果力在醴陵來完成刊物的中文打字。她只需四美元一千，不到洛杉磯的價錢的三分之一。當然文件的傳遞全靠網絡，才有可能。這又使我想起冬冬和阿立的父親的出版事業，說不定也有能安排在大陸打字甚至撰寫印刷的可能。兩地成本的差異，用互聯網消除空間距離，加以組織和利用，便有商業和事業創建的可能。這也使我們想到電腦，網絡多種語文能力對你們年輕人將來的重要。

春天來了。春天象徵生機，發展，和快樂。古人有：“一日之計在於晨，一年之計在於春，一生之計在於勤”人的一身之計端在於“年輕”。希望你們領悟這些話的教育意義。我們的生活如常。小翔和小琳的爸爸 3/11-3/20 去台北講學，據告他此行非常愉快而且有收穫。你們或已知道。上月小琳在電郵中告訴我們曾下種子到泥土，不知長得如何了？暫寫到這裡。謝謝其他給我們的回信。祝健康愉快，學業進步。

Dear Grandchildren:

This is the fourth letter since I decided to write you a letter monthly beginning this year. There was a big news outcome last month in Taiwan, i.e. Mr. Chen Swe Bin/ Ms. Lu Su Lian of the Democratic Progress Party won the presidency election. We say this big because people in Taiwan will enter a new era after his inauguration on May 20th, having great influence on the future development of the relationship between the Mainland China and Taiwan. Those of you living in the North America may not be possible to full imagine the importance and significance of this matter. Ask your parents to explain for you, if you want know more.

On the 3/25/00 Chinese Reminerpao, I noticed a short news saying, in the session of the "society of dialect" in Chicago, the word "SHE" was chosen as the WORD OF MILLENARY. Other words under consideration were BOOK, FREEDOM, GOVERNMENT, RIGHTEOUSNESS, NEWS, NATURE, OK, etc. SHE beat the SCIENCE by 35 to 27 in the final poll. Superficially the result means the grand love, honor, compassion, and sympathy, shown to the feminine gender of the man-dominated world. There must much more to say beyond the above. How do you think of this?

It is spring now. Spring symbolic, growing, developing and being light heart. Old saying in Chinese: Yearly planning at spring, daily planning in the morning, lively planning at youth. Boys and girls, how are you planning? Miranda emailed me she planted some seeds. How are they growing?

Joseph and Malina's daddy had a successful trip to Taiwan from 3/11 to 3/20/00 to deliver several speeches and to meet some industries for his products sales promotion. He had been seeing Tsa Chu Ting Shu and the two of you in Taiwan.

Love you all.

Gong Gong/Nie Nei