

給 孫兒女第七封信。

7/6/2000 (lunar calendar 6/5)

上 (6) 月十一日奶奶和我去舊金山史丹佛大學參觀明琇的碩士學位畢業典禮。有兩次大集會，一次為全校性的，在足球場露天舉行。約有兩萬多人，校長講話之外，還有包括聯合國秘書長安南在內貴賓講演。秩序非常良好。在講演時，全場無一嘈雜聲音。歡呼鼓掌時始全場熱烈爆發。響聲震天。另一場為系內系主任祝賀致詞，頒發證書獎狀。在室內約一兩千人。講的很多，我未能都聽清記憶。有一句對我留有較深印象。是一引述前總統艾森豪威爾的名言。大意為："單是計劃沒有多大意義，進行式(表示動態檢討修定)計劃才有意義"。聰明的孫輩們，你們一定也能體會其中意義。事實上我自己規定每日必做"計劃" "整理內務" "日記" 三事，與其大意相合。我們還參觀校區。據說是全球最大的。我們從舊金山回來不久接到家瑞從電子郵件傳來幾張高中畢業典禮時所攝的美麗相片。昨天又收到她寄來的信和四張相片。我們觀賞久之，非常欣慰。聽說她將升入加拿大最有名的麥考基大學。今年真是雙喜臨門。

這次信中順便讓我來介紹一篇美國有名 <金石良言> 的短文給你們。是我 1980 年，庭永還在校修學位時，到他宿舍房間中看到，喜愛取得而翻譯為中文的。該文為 1927年 馬克司歐門所撰。我的譯文如下：

『在人世紛擾中，你必須沉靜向前邁進。記住"沉默"可能帶來和平。儘可能與人和善相處，但不是屈從。平靜而清晰地表達自己的真意，也要靜聆他人言論。即使他人所說的平淡甚至拙劣，其中也許有值得聽取的內容。避免和粗暴的人相爭，以免擾亂你的精神。不要和人相比。人生際遇不一，比來比去，徒感失意和痛苦。對你的成就和計劃要感到快樂。對自己的事業深感興趣。它在你變遷的命運中，即使卑微，但總是你真實的所有。世間充滿欺詐，你得隨時小心。但也不要因此而忽略德行的存在。須知世上也有很多人在為崇高的目標而努力，也處處充滿英雄事蹟精神。保持你本來面目，不要矯情。不要鄙薄愛心。在枯乾失色的泥土上，也可能長出花木的菁蔥。接納年老者的忠告。包涵年輕人的言行。精神的潛力能助你抵擋橫逆。但不必為過度幻想而勞神。恐懼多由疲勞和孤寂而產生。在應有的自律之外，對自己不妨寬容。與地上的樹木和天空的星星一樣，你也是大自然的孩提。你有權存在。不管你是否清楚明白，宇宙毫無保留的呈現於你的面前。因此你需要與"上蒼"和平相處。不管你把"上蒼"想成什麼，不管你的勞動和志向如何，在生命的紛亂中，保持你心的安寧。在人世中偶有蒙羞，艱窘，甚至美夢的破滅，這仍是一個美麗的世界。快樂吧，儘量歡欣。』

你們年紀還輕，對上述短文中的涵義未必能完全了解。留神長時慢慢思索對你們總是有益的。這暑假中你們中有好幾專為學習中文和中國文化而去台灣。希望小心謹慎，用心學習。都能平安愉快，大有收穫回來。今天相當陰曆奶奶的生日。我們將去餐館高興吃一頓。

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DEAR GRANDCHILDREN:

On the past 6/11, grandma and myself had a trip to SF Stanford University to attend the Commencement 2000 celebration, which is meaningful to us because of it was also marking the awarding of a master degree to our Michael in the Civil and Environment Engineering Department. In this trip we had an opportunity, together with Michael's parents and two sisters, visited the huge campus area of the school and attended two massive assemblies, The first including some twenty thousand attendants, was in university scale, having been addressed by the chancellor and some outstanding guests including DR. Annon the general secretary of the united nation. The second held in the department hall in smaller scale was for the head of the department also some outstanding guests and professors to give a farewell speech as well as to hand over diplomas to graduates. I can hardly memorize all what they said except the saying quoted from the speech of President Eisenhower long time ago saying: " Plan means nothing, but planning is very meaningful". We believe our wise grandchildren do understand the real meaning of this quote. Tell you the truth, for many years I myself have used to do three things every day, which are planning, keeping things in order, and writing short diary. I think this is the way to be successful and cheerful in a life.

Incidentally in my old file I happened to find out an old script of my translation of a short essay I got some day in 1980 during the time I was going to see my youngest son John in his dormitory when he was working on his master degree in Illinois Champagne. Thinking you might like to see it, I take this opportunity to quote down for your reference as follows.

"DESIDERATA:"

"GO PLACIDLY AMID THE NOISE & HASTE, & REMEMBER WHAT PEACE THERE MAY BE IN SILENCE. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have their story.☆ Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain & bitter; for always there will be greater &

lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. ☆ Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. ☆ Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither is cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. ☆ Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrounding the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. ☆ you are a child of the universe, no less than the trees & the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. ☆ Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors & aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. ☆ With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy. ☆☆ 1927 by Max Ehrmann "

Maybe you are too young yet to fully comprehend the above essay. Keep it to read and think over occasionally on you life track of growing. Four of you are going Taiwan this summer vacation for learning Chinese language and culture. Hope you make best use of the time to learn and take good care of yourselves. Remind you; today is grandma's birthday. We will eat in good restaurant to celebrate.

Grandpa [grandma acknowledged]

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