

親愛的孫兒女們： [Dear grandchildren]

今年過了一半多。已是暑假中了。今年有明珏和浩寧(冬冬)兩人大學畢業，都已找到好的工作。萬力今年高中畢業。我們收到他從郵局寄來一封信和兩張很帥的畢業照。就這機會我們先向這三個畢業的孫輩道賀。現在連明琇，大學畢業的已有三人。在大學肄業中的有萬妮，明瑞，浩立和家瑞四人。中學的也還有四人。看“你們班輩出，一個個由幼年而青少年而成年。真有無比的高興。可是我們兩人則日見衰老可悲。人生就是這麼回事。暑假中你們即將跟隨父母四出旅遊渡假。有去法國的，去遊絲路的，也有來加州聖地牙哥隨後來看我們的。我們天天在過““渡假”的生活，沒有任何出遊的計劃。

[Hi, Half the time of the year has gone. Now you are in the summer vacation. This year, we have two of our grandchildren, Jessica and Diana, graduated from the colleges while another, the Chris, graduated from the senior high. We have just received a letter and two nice photos from him. We take this opportunity to say congratulations to the above three just. Counting the status of our grandchildren, including Michael, we have three graduated from colleges, four in colleges and four in high schools. Seeing you all creeping up year by year from childhood to juvenal and eventually some to adulthood, we feel happy about your progress but a touch sadness crossing our heart on our aging. This is nature tendency of the human life. We know you all have your plans for your vacation. Some of you to France, some to tour along the silk way, some to San Diego to attend marriage celebration for relatives, and on their way back would stop at our residence. We in our retirement are practically in vacation all the time, won't go any place out of LA. This summer]

一年多以來寫這些信給你們。主要目的是對你們在“心靈和文化素養”方面做一點我能做的工作。對九個北美成長的孫輩“教中文和中國文化”。我們早知道有些內容對冬冬和阿立而言是多餘的。現在你們一一長大，連最小的萬琳也能給我回信。阿立進了大學，冬冬大學畢業。我這寫的方式必不能一成不變。我考慮調整方式如下：① 應該聘冬冬和阿立升任為助教來教其他孫輩的“中文和中國文化”② 我們寫給孩子的“每月一信”應以副本寄冬冬和阿立。③ 繼續寫，徵詢大家的意見，將內容不斷改進。

[You all know, the intention or my writing you emails monthly is like the way watering and caring of the young planted flowers. You all need some kind of guidance during the stage of your growth and building up elegant and dignified soul and decent characters. For those North America grandchildren (NAG) of us, an additional purpose is to teach Chinese and Chinese peculiar culture classics. To Dondong and Ali, some of the material covered in my previous letters is evidently too primary and superficial. Now as the time proceeding up to a state more and more mature, I timely find out the necessity to adjust the way of my writing you the letters in future. Some ideas of the change are: (1) Assign Dondong and Ali, if agreeable to them, as my assistants in teach the NAG Chinese and Chinese culture. (2) From now on I will give copies of my "monthly letters to children" to Dondong and Ali for reference since they are now up to a level deserving to read such letters entirely in Chinese. (3) I would like to hear your opinion regarding how to improve the quality of my letters to you in future.]

昨(7/18)晚在這裡電視看“中天頻道節目”胡忠信主持的“脫口秀”節目。受訪問的是“天下雜誌”主持人高希筠教授。主題是推動一社會“讀書運動”。口號之一是『“讀一流書”，“做一流人”』。其他以往由他講出的話有：“天下無白吃的午餐”

(這次才知道是高教授講出的), "以書櫃替換酒櫃", "以書房替換麻將房".....講的很多, 深獲我心. 這節目冬冬和阿立一家在台灣想必已經看過的. 一定非常讚賞. 你奶奶和我看後討論, 認為我家想的和做的和高教授講的方向相同. 做法不完全一樣. 我們的似乎是更輕鬆, 多方面, 具創造性, 用新觀念和新方法, 閱讀書報雜誌, 非宗教迷信但堅守崇尚正道等等. 和高教授的以基督教為主導, 規定每月讀幾本名著...等稍有不同. 我們以給兒孫 "每月一信" 培養情操, 每人都能用電子郵件互通聲氣, 就是他不曾提起的. 而且以我這樣高齡練習會如此高速度中文打字, 我還不知道有第二人哩. 這月我網頁中上網我報章雜誌登出的文章超過一百篇. 還有給兒孫的信和詩詞等. 這些是我們大家進步的指標.

[Last night (7/18) grandma and I watched the copied talk show program from Taiwan carried out by Hu Zhong Sing talked with Prof. Kao Xi Ying regarding the topic of how to cultivate, build up, or stimulating reading habit in the society of Taiwan. The slogan presented by Prof. Kao is "Read first rate books and be first rate person". Some other well known sayings originated by Kao quoted are: "No free lunch in the world", "Need a bookshelves rather than a wine shelve", "Need a study room rather than a majiang room" "Save the expenses of the last dish in an banquet to do something more worthwhile". The theme of their talk is to initiate a change of the bad contemporary custom of the society in Taiwan. We both consent with Prof. Kao's viewpoint of advocacy. We think the Lin's family might have watched and praised that high quality program. We also believe we are doing generally on the same track of Prof. Kao's ad vocation but we are rather more flexible, creative, versatile, less religious. Kao is touting his "read good book club" requiring the members to read at least 3 books proposed. We are doing more than Kao is proposed including writing letters to you; setup a homepage to include most of my essays and writings. Such and such, we think what we are doing is agreeable to his goal but different way.

] 還有很多想寫的, 為使不太長, 有些留待下月再談. [I have more to say. For keeping the letter not too lengthy, I think of stopping here]