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給孫兒女每月一信 (monthly letter to grandchildren, September 2001)

9/22/2001 drafted, 9/30/2001 revised after reviewing.

親愛的孫兒女們: (Dear Grandchildren)

這月 911 美國發生震驚全世界的大事. 你們所知道的不會少于我們. 事件發生經過, 種種悲情, 和一些驚人感人的故事, 這幾天不斷出現于報章雜誌和很多人的談話. 在你們青少年的心靈中一定有所感受. 中國古代賢人孟子講過, 人都有 "惻隱" 和 "是非" 之心 (其余尚有 "羞惡" 和 "辭讓" 之心). 你們一定對受難者及其家屬非常 "惻隱" 而難過. 對恐怖份子認為是邪惡而痛恨. 我為此在 9/15/01 便寫了一篇 <哀911---美國遭攻擊> 一文寄報章雜誌發表 (按: 該文已在 9/23/01 北美世界日報和 10 月份的漢聲雜誌登出). 表達我的心意和看法. 這文章已在我的網頁中. 你們可以設法了解.

[The big event of the September 11 America under attack has shocked the whole world. Your knowing on this matter is no less than what we do. These days, related news pictures, reports, discussions, have been flooding the mass media all over the world, and becoming the main topic of private conversation.

An air of grievances, anger and some fear is full of the nation and some part of the world. Small stories and rumors are revealing and spreading. . All these assuredly cause you some kind of special feeling and even impact to the mind of you youngsters. Just like what the ancient Chinese sage Mentze says in his classic book, all human being distinctly possess the characters of feeling piteous on other's suffering and the judging which is correct or wrong in the human being behavior. (The other two points are: feeling shameful over one's own wrong doing, and being reluctant refusal to receive undeserved bestowing ). you all are sure to feel piteous over the dead and the suffered and hatreds to the vicious terrorist on this tragedy.

On 9/15/01 I wrote an essay < Sorrow over September 11---American under attack> , which is publicized on the 9/23/01 World Daily News and the October issue of the Hansheng Magazine in Australia also entered to my homepage where you can get to read if you like ]

我還要在這時候告訴你們下面幾點我的意見: ① 世界和人生是美好的也常有凶變的可能. 人要 "居安思危". ② 我個人從小自戰亂中長大, 見聞和經歷過無數大災難. 對這樣的災難雖然悲傷和同情但無甚恐懼. ③ 我曾經歷的時代大災難例如: 1. 童年家鄉 (醴陵) 常有兵災, "農民協會" 和 "清鄉隊" 殺來殺去, 曾親見田野見稻草蓋的屍體. 2. 抗日戰爭時曾有長沙大火, 整座古城全部焚燬; 南京大屠殺, 死三十萬人以上; 在長沙在重慶時多次遇到日本飛機空襲轟炸. 重慶大隧道案是在日機有一次 "疲勞轟炸" 持續太久, 防空洞門被鎖不能開, 洞內窒息死亡數萬人....④

我個人曾遭遇多次死亡邊際的災難: 例如小時在河中玩水, 幾乎溺死. 在軍中任翻譯, 一次實彈演習時, 因信號失誤, 機關槍子彈 [machine gun bullets] 掃射到我足前. 1953 年在美國空軍理工學院受訓時, 週末同學帶我乘他自駕 "熟悉飛行" [proficiency flight, 沒有飛行任務僅為技能練習的飛行] 的飛機去西點軍校參觀, 晚上迷航準備跳傘, 最後得救. 像這樣的險事曾有一二十次之多, 將來有時間將其寫出留作紀念.

[At this moment few more points to tell you in addition to the above: NUMBER

1. The world and the human lives are nice, but disasters are possibly to occur at any place and any time onto any person. So people better get well mentally prepared to prevent, face and cope with any accident. NUMBER

2. At an age of 81 like me, grown up from an unrest country most time at war, I had weathered countless disasters in my life. The presents September 11 disaster though caused me heavy grievance but not much fear. NUMBER 3.

I had lived long enough time to see or hear of the numerous holocausts in China during the time of Japanese invasion in the second world war time.

Tell you now some perilous instances I experienced since young: a. In the year about 1926, in my native country Liling Hunan, I saw many peasants killed. I now still have the memory of seeing many bodies covered with straw

lying on the farmland. b. In the Sino-Japanese war time, the city of Zhangsha where I used to live and to attend primary and middle school was burned to ground, I saw many time air raid bombing of Japanese airplanes. c. The Japanese invasion caused several tens of millions casualties in China.

For instance, the big holocaust in Nanking in 1937 causing more than 300 thousand people killed, a big fir burnt down the entire city of zhangsha in 1938, accidental shelter tunnel failure caused death of tens of thousand people in a prolonged Japanese air raid in Chengking in the year of 1941, etc. NUMBER 4, Personally I did experience several times on verge of accidental

death in my life such as: Once as a boy of 6, playing in a river near our home in the native country side, I had an accident almost got drowned to death, In the year 1944 when I was conscripted to serve as an interpreter in the army, once in a real firing rehearsal, I almost got killed by a mistaking

machine gun firing (bullets hit the soil near my feet), In the year 1953, when I was attending a training school in USA together four other "allied students" like me, in a week end entertainment "proficiency night flight trip" conducted by a good willing American classmate, flying from Dayton Ohio to WestPoint, we were suddenly ordered to wear parachutes getting ready to jump out of an airplane in dark because of losing connection with the terminal and fuel exhausted. Thank God, we finally got landed. Perilous incidents like these are numerous near 20 cases that might be written out to you in future when I have enough t

時下美國一般人擔心年輕人在電視中看到這樣災變造成心靈損害. 我想你們讀到我上面所寫的, 更能了解人世之無常, 心理方面更能接受這一事實. 這月的信我寫到這裡. 這月因特別忙, 我早抽出較短時間將中文信寫出後, 原想請冬冬替我翻譯成英文. 到月底比較有時間來自己來檢查, 發現原件寫的太拉雜, 不易翻譯. 而且我

也意識冬冬的工作非常忙. 我不應該將這樣我自己認為不好辦的事來麻煩孫輩. 所以我將這信改簡單了些而自己做了. 因為是家信, 我不怕寫的翻的不好. 對我自己沒有壓力. 如要你們做, 很可能不一樣.

[Many American adults are worrying about their youngsters mentally getting hurt because of repeatedly watching the September 11 tragedy TV showings.

I Think you would get rid of that harm becoming psychologically more acceptable

the unbelievable happening after reading my above saying. So much I have written. This letter is to be ended here. I originally wanted the Chinese draft to be translated into English by Diana. Latter on I regret to do so realizing the translation is not such easy and the fact that Diana is fully absorbed by her job undertaken. So I modified the draft to make it easier to translate by myself]

GRANDPA (previewed and concurred by GRANDMA)