

給孫兒女每月一信 [MONTHLY LETTER TO GRANDCHILDREN, SEPTEMBER 25, 2002]

親愛的孫兒女們：

上月信中我引述美國哈佛大學校長勞倫斯薩默斯給北京大學一次演講中，提到‘全球化’浪潮下學生面對的五大挑戰。你們想必已經注意到。其中第三條講“應該更關注‘人文科學’，關注人的本質內在的一些東西。”。這月的信中我就我自己這方面心中感受加以補充。以往我常聽到所謂‘基礎科學’、‘自然科學’、‘社會科學’甚至‘管理科學’。卻還沒有注意到有‘人文科學’。我在‘金字典’倒是找到 humanities 下有‘人文科學’的解釋為：古今文學，歷史，藝術等方面學術。。我查1988年的韋氏 Webster 字典，在 humanities 下有更多的解釋。大意謂為有關‘人’的品質和狀態。另一解釋為研究哲學、語文等方面，關於‘人’異於其他‘自然物’的學問。我於是恍然大悟。所謂‘人文科學’是指‘人’在心智方面、異於禽獸、而不屬‘基礎科學’、‘自然科學’、‘社會科學’和‘管理科學’等專門層次的東西。我完全同意哈佛大學校長的的意見。現代的知識份子多有追逐專業或專門知識，忽略上述‘人文科學領域的東西’，我認為不僅是‘美中不足’而是一重大的‘缺陷’甚至是造成‘悲劇’的原因。近代的人以為賺夠了錢什麼問題都可以解決。事實上不盡然。問題就發生在‘人文科學’的內涵修養不足方面。這是我的思維所得，寫出來供你們參考。我也可以告訴你們，我因以往所受教育和經歷的不同，我多少接觸了不少人文科學有關的東西。我的專業範圍有：工程科學、管理科學、工程設計、和工程顧問等。興趣則有：寫作、詩詞、國學、書法、時論、系統分析等。我祇是在若干專業知識之外，對人文科學稍有涉獵而已。希望你們能有更多的了解和關心。

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Dear grandchildren: 9/20[5]/2002

In my letter to you last month I mentioned in brief the recent speech delivered by the principal of the Harvard University, Mr. Lawrence Summers , to the students of the Beijing University in China. Among the 5 points he addressed

about, I now pick up the point 3 for substantiation, which says “We must care more on the humanities. We should have more concerns on the interior things of human being.” Frankly speaking, the word humanities referred as a "science" is rather new to me. Out of curiosity, I got the meaning of humanities on a handy electronic dictionary as means " studies such ancient and modern literature, history, etc. and the arts.” I also looked on the 1988 Webster at the explanation of humanities as "the branches of learning (as philosophy, languages) that investigate human constructs and concerns as opposed to natural processes (as physics or chemistry). Now I understand the real meaning of humanities as a science, and agree with Principal Summer’s emphasizing the importance of the humanities. Among the high level intellectuals now a day, there is such a trend to put too much emphasize on to chasing the professionalism for easier making money but neglect the balanced study of humanities. To my belief, lack of humanities cultivation not only means a deficiency, but a big lose which might result in disaster in the long run of live time. Money doesn’t mean everything but when coming along with sufficient humanities basis would certainly be much safer and more enjoyable.

每月送給你們電子郵件後，總有退回傳送不出的。這次我將所知你們的網址一概寫出供核對。如發現其中有錯誤或缺少的，你們彼此在回信中指出告訴我，以便下次補全。

01。明琇 Michelle ?

02。明珽 Jessica )

03。明瑞 Rodney (rodney yeh)

04。明瑋 Yvonne ?

05。萬妮 Jeniffer )

06。萬力 Christopher cwwen!umich.edu(crist)

07。萬能 Jeffrey chanman207#hotmail.com(jeff)

08. 浩寧 Diana )

09. 浩立 Ali )

10. 庭瑞 Karen )

11. 庭宇 Miranda )

12. 萬翔 Joseph )

13. 萬琳 Melanie )

奶奶的病現接近痊癒。特告訴你們使放心。寄給你們愛心和關切

Many times when I sended you the emails I got reply messages of some failed delivery because of wrong email addresses used. Now I list all the email addresses of you available to me. Please check and make correction or supplementation on the above to make them sound for next time sending.

Grandma is almost completely recovered now. Thanks to your concerning.

Best regards and love.

Grandpa and Grandma