

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

親愛的孫兒女們: 12/17/2001

我給你們的每月一信到這月滿兩年. 我寫這樣的信是 "不問收穫, 祇問耕耘" 的. 事實上"收穫" 已能從很多方面看到. 我原沒有預期你們每人每月一定回信, 但偶然回信的不少, 包括最小的萬琳有一次來信告訴我她在院子裡花鉢中下的種子發了芽.... 僅是這樣一句童言, 使我得到鼓勵和啟示. 明琇來信比較多, 到底她是大姐姐. 多次在 "伊媚兒" 中附寄相片給我們, 和告訴一些訊息. 這月12/4日, 她來信告訴我們 有人新發明 "電動滑板車(塞格威)" 的消息. 我回信在新一期的時代雜誌上大約看過, 但不知其究竟. 她立即回信告訴我是利用GYROSCOPE (陀螺儀) 的原理. 使我想到力學上 這方面知識而能領悟到它可能的構造. 真是很非常巧妙. 聖誕節很快來到. 今年有庭堅, 庭和兩家來和我們過聖誕節(共八人, 萬妮陪母不能來). 且將去"棕櫚泉" 住幾天. 明年一月中 庭澍夫婦和庭永夫婦將來我們家. 庭林和庭和在上月才來過看我們. 還在規劃在明年二月邀我們一同去台灣. 因為飛行沒有以往便利, 而最近團聚次數已經相當多, 所以我們婉拒了你們父母安排在今年舊曆年團聚的建議. 不久我們很多要見面了. 這月的信寫到這裡. 祝節日歡樂愉快 祖父母 囑告.

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[Dear Grandchildren: Up to this month, my monthly letters to you are extending to a period of two years. You all know my doing so is in a spirit of "doing sloughing, weeding and cultivation not looking for harvest ". Even though, to my satisfaction and pleasure, I still have got some noticeable harvest on having received quite a number of replies from almost all of you. One of the emails received last year was from Melanie, the youngest of you, in a single sentence telling that she noticed some seeds buried in a bowl soil now spouting. I was glad to read that lovely short letter and had

a thoughtful association. Michelle the eldest sister of yours has sent us most emails, some with pictures. This month she mentions in her email the currently famous new invention of the walking machine "Segway" with a hint that is an application of GYROSCOPE. I immediately got the idea and thought of some of the possible essentials of the design and recalled what I learned on the course of mechanics in the university long time ago. Christmas is near at hand. Eight persons of the two families of Tingeng and Tingho will come here to spend several gleeful days with us (less Jennifer who is to accompany with her mother). We will stay several days at resort Palm spring not very far from our home. The couples of Tingshu and Tingying will come to see us the coming New Year January. We kindly refused the common proposal of our children to have another reunion to mark the coming lunar new years'time considering the recent rather inconvenient air flight traveling and the fact most of them having visited us recently. See some of you very soon. May you all have a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Grandpa and grandma]