

2004年5月給孫兒女家每月一信。 5/24/2004。

親愛的孫兒女們：

今天5/24、陰曆4月6日、是我84歲生日。我 5/13/1921年生。當時陰曆是四月初六。我那時代的中國人都祇記陰曆生日。出生的年、月、日、時。譜成干支八字，用做算命的根據。沒有管陽曆的日子。後來填身份證和護照的出生、因當時不知道陽曆的日子、就將陰曆生日當作陽曆來用。所以嚴格講、我們那時代前後的人的生日都是不準確的。以往的人活到八十多歲的人不多。活上九十的要記錄到‘縣志’上的。從前還有講：‘七十三、八十四、閻王不請自己去。’的俗話。我現在一點也沒有大限來臨的感覺。祇是感覺很多事等待完成。科學的進步使人壽命延長。你們將來年老時、120歲壽命將是普通。

所以你們現在好好準備充實自己的能力。將有很長的時間來發揮你們的理想。

你們都已漸漸長大、更成熟。對成人的事務也能瞭解。所以從這月起我將給兒女的信簡單的翻譯成英文。使你們都能了解。希望你們有此一天都像萬妮一樣學會中文、那我無需費時間來翻譯。這月的信寫到這裡。

Today 5/24/2004 is my 84th birthday in lunar calendar of 4/6 which equivalent to 5/13 in 1921, different every different year, according to the calendar reference book. In my time and earlier, people mostly used lunar calendar. Strictly speaking my date of birth in my ID, 4/6/1921 is not true. 84 years old is very rare in the old time but now very common. The advance of science prolongs the human life. People in your age could expect to reach an age of about 120. So you strive to learn more and more for such a prolonged time of usage and development.

From this month on I try to briefly translate my "monthly letter to children" to English enabling all of you to understand. You are now all grown up accessible to what talk to your parents. I really hope you would master the Chinese reading and writing like Jennifer doing, thus I could do an easier job only write the Chinese versions of my monthly letters in future.

This monthly letter ends here. Care and love Grandpa