

我從人生學習到什麼？

感恩節談感恩

葉親法 講/譯於2011年11月28日萬佛城大殿
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我很感謝我這一生中碰到的許多人。

當然，最重要的是我的父母親，他們對我有最大的影響，那就是堅忍不拔的精神，即使在不可能的情形下，還可以往前走。我父母教我要做一件事情的時候，永遠不要放棄。

母親是非常孝順的女兒，外祖母跟我們一起住了三十年，都是我母親照顧她。母親晚年的時候，更展現出很大的原諒和包容，我們都知道她是願意把最後一滴血都給出去，而不願意讓她的小孩受到任何的傷害。

近年來我慢慢地感覺到爸爸對我有著越來越深的影響。父親總是告訴我們所有的小孩：「永遠做好準備，不管你要做什麼事情，準備是成功之母。」他雖然是個軍人，可是總是非常的平靜，而且從來沒有分別心。

我越知道他的時候，我就越能欣賞他的性格。雖然仰慕他是位抗日名將，但是我最佩服他的，是他有包容、寬恕的心。他在中國軍隊裏面有一個外號叫「常勝將軍葉婆婆」，是因為他真正對手下非常關心。

他來自很窮的家庭，唯一能夠使他走出去的方法就是從軍，雖然他一直很想做工程師。他永遠都記得在年輕的時候走不出貧困的絕望。所以，在整個軍旅生涯裏，他創建了三個學校給貧窮的小孩。

二〇〇五年，我第一次訪問雲南騰沖城裏的第一職高中學，才感覺到父親



What I Learned from My Life: Giving Thanks on Thanksgiving

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of many wonderful people I have encountered during this fantastic journey.

Clearly my parents had the biggest influence on me. The one great gift they both gave me is tenacity -- the ability to go on despite seemingly impossible conditions. Through their own embodiment, my parents taught me to never give up on whatever I would like to accomplish.

My mother was an extremely filial daughter, having taken care of my grandmother for over thirty years. In later years, she had exhibited tremendous forgiveness and compassion towards everyone, but most important of all to her children; we know that she would give her last drop of blood in order to protect her children from harm.

While I always felt that my mother influenced me more, I began to realize in recent years the gradual deepening influence of my father. When I was young, I remembered my father always told us "to prepare for anything we

的整體形象。在那個小城裏面雖然曾經有很多軍隊進去過，可是騰冲的人民只設了一個碑，就是紀念我父親和他的198師。即使在六十年以後的今天，



連開計程車的二十多歲的小夥子也都知道他。

當時他們告訴我在六十周年紀念的時候，有一位日本老先生說在騰冲縣被中國軍隊收復的時候，他是一個士兵，所以有人把他帶來見我父親。他說我父親完全沒有把他當俘虜，而且對他說：「你應該回到日本去，因為日本需要你去重建你的家園，就像中國需要我一樣。」所以他說：「今天，我要來感謝六十年前我的那位指導師！」

所以，我從父親那裏學到平等心的真正意義。因為從他的觀點來講，人的貧窮，是其他每一個人的責任，來把這個貧窮給除掉；另外一點，有靈活的頭腦，你可以從很多不同的角度來看問題，然後把兩個看似完全不相關的點連起來，那麼，你有可能會達成在常理之下完全不可能達成的事情。

我在伊利諾伊大學讀博士時，很幸運請大衛·穆勒教授擔任我的論文指導老師。他是物理學家，可是在電腦跟數學方面都有貢獻。

他對我的教法和我其他朋友的論文導師完全不一樣的，他從來不告訴我，我的論文應該做什麼題目。我有問題問他的時候，他總是用問題來回答，或者只是對我笑笑，讓我自己去找答案。

他讓我一步一步看清自己。然後，從那裏我才能夠開始知道，我論文應該寫什麼，而不是他告訴我應該寫什麼。

從他那裏我學到了三課：一個是在做學問上要誠實；第二個是不要怕，因為做學問是探索的工作，不要怕探索任

do, preparation is the mother of success.” and that he was always calm and nonjudgmental, even though he is in army.

As I got to know more of him through the years, I came to appreciate the greatness in him. While clearly learned he was a war hero, I was much more impressed by his inclusive heart. He had a nickname in the Chinese Army, “Grandma Yeh -- the always victorious general” because he truly cared for his soldiers.

He came from a very poor family and the only way out of poverty was to join the army even though he always wanted to be an engineer. But he always remembered his days of desperation as a teenager and never forgot to help other poor children like him. During his army career, he set up three schools for poor children.

When I visited the First Vocational High School in Tengchong, Yunnan, in 2005, I felt the full force of his personality. I was so amazed that the people there erected one and only memorial tower at the highest point in town to honor him and his division, despite the many divisions that had poured into the city during the war. In fact, everywhere I went, people remembered him, even taxi drivers in their twenties, after more than sixty years.

What I've come to realize is that he really cared. I was told of a story of an old Japanese gentleman recalling his meeting with my father, after the Chinese army retook Tengchong. He was brought to meet my father, as a captured Japanese soldier. He said, “The young general did not treat me as a prisoner of war at all. He told me to go home to rebuild Japan as my country needed me just like China needed him. I followed his advice and would like to honor my mentor from sixty years ago.”

I have learned two additional lessons from my father, many years after he passed away: The true meaning of equality means that poverty is everyone's responsibility; Also, flexibility of the mind -- the ability to tradeoff different perspectives and ‘connect the dots’ to arrive at something unexpected -- is something I've come to realize that one must learn to leverage in order to achieve a seemingly impossible task with few resources.

The first part of my life in this country was that of a student and I had the good fortune to have met Prof. David Muller, as my thesis advisor, at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. He was trained as a physicist and became famous in making fundamental contributions to both Mathematics and Computer Architecture and Theory.

He mentored me in the most unusual way in that he never suggested what should be the topic of my Ph.D. thesis. However, he provided all the space and time to allow me to go into myself to discover what I must write. While he would give me the time for any questions during my search, he never provided a direct answer. He usually asked me a question as answer to my question.

Recalling these meetings with him, I now understand that he forced me to be honest with myself as well as to develop a sense of fearlessness in order to be a true explorer of knowledge. In doing so, I was forced to smash open many of my self-limiting assumptions, like peeling an onion one layer at a time, until I saw myself totally naked. Although I changed the topic

何東西，因為你一怕的話，格局就在那裏卡住你；第三個，幫助別人最好的方法，就是不棄不離地在那裏維護這個人。

我後來離開了學校，試著做企業家。第一個投資到我們公司的人是一位很成功的投資者，叫杰克·特羅特。有一天，他的助手打電話給我說：「特羅特先生要來看看你的公司，大概他只可以待三十分鐘。」所以他來了以後，我就趕快地給他做了一個報告。才講了七八分鐘，他就說：「對不起！你講的話，我一句都沒有聽懂。」我正在想：「糟糕了！」他接著就說：「可是，我很喜歡你這個人。你需要多少資金？」

之後，他每個月送來一張支票，可是我們完全沒有任何的合約，口頭的也沒有。後來有一天，那時我已經花了他一百多萬，他的助手又打電話來，他說：「特羅特先生認為，我們應該正式擬一個合約。」所以他不僅是幫助我，同時還教了什麼是真正的信任！

有幸遇到臺灣的李國鼎先生。我在一九七四年遇到他，那時他是財政部長，從此我們結下了三十多年的友誼。一九七六年他可以當行政院長，但是他沒有；他不知道臺灣的第二個經濟奇蹟應如何發生，所以不做行政院長，而花了一年時間在世界上到處走、到處去看，跟各行各業的人交談。

他來馬里蘭看我的時候，我嚇了一跳，他只帶了一個副官。我跟他建議的時候，他是親自抄寫筆記。所以，在他的互動中，我學到如何能夠同時看到整個大局跟每一個小點。而他教我的另外一點，就是他完全沒有自我，完全是把全部身心都交給了國家。所以他可以發現臺灣的第二個經濟奇蹟。

我生命中最重要的人之一是我的同修。我們相識至今已五十年了。她天生具有服務的心，她的快樂源自使他人快樂。她常講由服務中所得到的報酬是即時的，完全不需要別人的獎賞或稱讚。多年來我看到的她是不以自己為中心的人，所以也變得比較謙虛了。

of my thesis several times, knowing each was not good enough, he never complained though he was paying me as a research assistant just to write my thesis.

It was painful to be his student as one was forced to go inside to find what's there. But at the same time, it was a great joy when you walked through the dark tunnel and suddenly saw light and beauty in front of you. While his teaching was mostly in silence with a smile or looking at me with his sparkling blue eyes, his behavior expressed to me that he was totally focused on bringing the best out of me by allowing me to find my own voice. To summarize, here are the lessons I've learned from Prof. Muller:

1. Be intellectually honest so as not to waste time on things not coming from my inner voice;

2. Maintain a fearless spirit by learning to continually smash my own self-limiting assumptions as I explore;

3. A powerful way to help another human being is just to be there for him or her.

When I left the academia to become an entrepreneur, Mr. Jack Trotter, an old time venture capitalist, was our first investor. One day, his assistant called informing me that Mr. Trotter would like to stop by for thirty minutes to understand what we were doing. Well, seven or eight minutes after I began my presentation, he raised his right hand and said, "Ray, I don't understand a thing of what you talked about. However, I like you and want to know how much funding you need."

He began to send me a check every month after the meeting with no agreement signed. After I spent more than one million dollars of his money, his assistant called one day and said, "Jack thinks we ought to formalize an agreement about his investment." Jack not only helped me to launch my entrepreneurial career, but more importantly, he taught me the true meaning of trust.

Another great person I had the honor to meet was Dr. K.T. Li, the father of Taiwan's information technology (IT) and the creator of Taiwan's economic miracle. I met him in 1974 when he was the Minister of Finance of Taiwan and began a thirty-year friendship. He turned down the opportunity to become the Premier in 1976 as he was concerned about how to achieve the second economic development for Taiwan. When he was searching for a blueprint for Taiwan's second S-curve of economic development, he went around the world talking to top IT leaders in industry and academia.

When he visited me in Maryland, I was so surprised that he came only with a suite and took careful notes on what I said. From interactions with him, I've learned how a person could simultaneously be aware of both the "macro view" as well as detailed "micro view." More specifically, he taught me how to keep a keen awareness of both the forest as well as individual trees in order to make better decision by "separating what is important in life from what isn't." He was an example of the great people I met who had no ego, and hence he was able to discover the second economic miracle for Taiwan.

It turns out that one of the most influential persons in my life is my wife; since our first encounter, it has been fifty years. What Priscilla taught me

最重要的是我要謝謝上人！因為能夠來到聖城是很不容易的因緣。然後因為來到了聖城，我能夠知道、也能夠有這個因緣受到佛菩薩大願的洗禮，我學到菩薩的大願都是深度地包容，所以他們可以「慈眼視眾生」。

因為在座的諸位，這八年裏我變了很多，下面的故事可以顯示你們對我的影響。我們住的地方有兩隻小老鼠，有一天晚上在夢間，我看見一隻小老鼠爬上床來到我的手心中，我很快地就抓住它，然後很快地跳起來，衝到後門想把它丟得很遠，但是打開門時，冰冷的天氣使我發抖，我想：「我們已相處很久了，今晚在冰凍的天氣下強行趕它，似乎沒有道理。」所以我就放了它，之後我就醒過來了。我想我的心也許變得比較柔軟了。

回想這一生裏非常美好的旅程時，記得有一首詩，是唐朝的比丘懷浚說的。問他的家在哪裡，他說：

家在閩山東復東，其中歲歲有花紅；
而今不在花紅處，花在舊時紅處紅。

萬佛聖城是沉澱我人生課程最佳的地方，讓我努力地為回家做準備。也許可以用上面這首詩的格式來表達我的心情：

家在娑婆西又西，蓮池浩翰花中花；
而今不在蓮花處，紫蕊含香待君歸。

was her natural born attitude for service in that her happiness is derived from making other people happy. She always mentioned that in service, her reward is instantaneous. She does not need any awards or other people's praise. The lessons of service from her, over many years, helped me to gradually reduce the size of my ego.

Most importantly, I am grateful to the Venerable Master for establishing the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. As part of this wonderful community, I was indeed fortunate to be nourished by vows of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas through the multitude of Dharma events here. I have learned that Bodhisattvas always practice deep inclusion, covering past, present, and future as well as the unlimited space of all the ten directions, which allows them to "see all beings with compassionate eyes."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, the people in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, who had helped to polish me over the last eight years. Because of you, I have changed and made some progress on cultivation. Perhaps the following story can express some of the changes of your collective influence on me.

We think there are a couple of field mice in our cottage, although we usually see only one at a time. One night, a few weeks ago, I had a dream in which I saw a mouse crawling up the bed towards me. As I watched, he crawled right into my right hand, which was lying open. I quickly caught the mouse and jumped up and went to the back door intending to throw him out as far as I could. When I opened the back door, the chilly air made me almost tremble. I thought: "Well, we have coexisted with him for some time now, and it would not be right to throw him out on a very cold night." So, I let him go inside of the cottage. Then, I woke up. I believe my mind is suppler now by being here with you.

As I look back on this wonderful journey, I recall a poem by the monk Huai-Chun during the Tang dynasty, when asked where his home was. He said:

*Home is east of the eastern end of Ming Mountain,
Where red flowers blossom year round.
While I am not among the blooms now,
The blooming flowers continue to flourish where they have always been.*

CTTB has been a most wonderful sanctuary for me to distill the lessons of this life; I am readying myself to go home, which perhaps can be expressed using the format above as:

*Home is west of the western end of Saha world,
Where overlapping lotus flowers blossom year round.
While I am not among the blooms now,
The fragrance of a purple bud is ready to welcome the traveler home!*