

## How Can We Make this World a Better Place?

龍靖瑜(培德女校九年級)文 陳施恩(培德女校九年級)英譯

Written by Tammy Long (9th Grader of DVGS) English translation by Siyan Chan (9th Grader of DVGS)

本文作者榮獲2018年北加州中文學術比賽作文A組第一名,並就參賽題目再次撰寫,摘要刊出。

Author of this article received a first-place award in the Group A essay contest of 2018 ANCCS Chinese Academic Contest. She rewrote her winning essay for this publication. This is an excerpt of her rewriting.



"You must remember that this world is our home."

When I was six years old, my mother asked me "What is your favorite thing in this world?" As an innocent child, I answered cheerfully, "of course I love the bright sun, the pretty flowers and the colorful butterflies!" After replying, I ran off to play. Two years later, I recalled this question and asked mother, "Mum, what is your favorite thing in this world?" Her answer caught me by surprise. She said, "I like the pretty flowers and colorful butterflies as you do, but the things I like more are the

「你一定要記住,這世界是我們全部人 的家。」

六歲那年母親問我:「你最喜歡這個世 界上的什麼?」年幼無知的我回答:「當 然是明媚的太陽,好看的花朵,還有五彩 繽紛的蝴蝶啦!」說罷,我便跑去玩了。 兩年後,偶然想起這個問題,反問母親: 「媽,你喜歡世界上的什麼啊?」母親的 回答很出乎意料,她說:「我也喜歡漂亮 的鮮花和蝴蝶,但我更喜歡的是那些對這 個世界無私奉獻的人們,還有孩子們天真 的笑臉。」八歲的我自然理解不了母親的 people who selflessly give back to the society, and the cheerful, innocent smiles of the children." Naturally, being eight-years-old child then, I was unable to understand her mindset, but I felt that my mother's words were wise, so I kept them in my memory.

I used to think that if I complete what I had to do, then everything else would be alright, but as I grew older, I came to realize that it wasn't as simple as I thought. The relationships between people grew colder and more distant, as everyone only cared to benefit themselves, even the conditions of our living environment has deteriorated.

Since I was a child, my mother would always teach and remind me to greet our neighbors politely. However, nowadays we barely raise our heads when we see our neighbors. When our eyes meet, we just put on a smile and then hurriedly walk away. This is not right. We should properly greet whoever we 想法,只覺得挺有道理,所以一直記在心裏。

以前覺得,只要把自己的事情做好,一切就都會 好了。但是漸漸長大後發現,事情並不是自己想像 的那麼簡單。人與人之間變得越來越冷淡,每個人 都想把自己的利益最大化,就連生活的環境也越來 越糟糕。

母親從小教我,見到認識的叔叔阿姨要問好, 見到鄰居要打招呼。可是現在的人,見到認識的只 是擡頭看看,朝對方笑笑就匆匆走開了。人們應該 在遇見時相互問好,用真心對待,就像中國那句古 話說的一樣:「老吾老以及人之老,幼吾幼以及人 之幼。」對待每一個老人都像對自己的父母一樣恭 敬,對待每個小孩都像是對自己的子女一樣愛護。 與朋友相處時要誠信相待,不要表裏不一。如果每 個人都有責任心,都肯為社會奉獻一點,那麼芸芸 眾生就能受益許多。

現代人努力地為自己的生活拼搏,很少能夠站在 別人的角度思考。比如兩家大公司為了一個項目爭 得死去活來,利潤流失,公司只好提高市價來維持 這場「惡戰」。結果兩家公司加上老百姓,都蒙受 其害。為什麼不想辦法合作把這個項目做得更好, 然後利益更多的人呢?

甚至兩個國家為了爭奪權力而打仗,最後打到 只剩殘兵敗將,國庫空空,爭到了權力又有什麼用 呢?打仗受苦的都是人民啊!另一個更普遍的例 子,就是兩個好朋友因為一塊餅乾吵架,誰都不肯 讓給誰,最後的結果就是友誼破裂。他們應該考慮 一下對方,退一步就海闊天空了。這些例子說起來 太多了,要是大家都能考慮一下別人,常常為別人 著想,世界就能變得更好。

我們的生活環境, 汙染也越來越嚴重。車輛越 來越多, 排出的氣體造成溫室效應, 噪音也越來越 大; 空氣和水的質量變差, 電力和天然氣的消耗浪 費等等。其實只要能多注意生活上的細節, 即使微 不足道的改變都能拯救我們的地球。

很多孩子就像當年六歲的我,喜歡五顏六色的花 朵,喜歡絢爛多彩的蝴蝶,還有燦爛耀眼的陽光。 請不要讓濃濃的霧霾遮住太陽,不要讓蝴蝶瀕臨滅 絕、花兒枯萎凋謝,希望我們的下一代也能享受到 我們曾經享受的童年。

那天晚上的情景仍然記憶猶新,母親的那句話一 直深印在我心裏:「想讓世界變得更美好,你一定 要記住,這世界是我們全部人的家。」 **參**  meet and treat everyone with sincerity. As the old Chinese proverb goes: "Honor old people as we do our own aged parents, and care for other's children as one's own; meaning we should treat all elders with respect and all children with love, just as we would do toward our own parents and children. When we interact with our friends, we should treat them sincerely and honestly. If everyone posses a sense of responsibility, with a willingness to contribute to society, then all would benefit greatly.

In our modern society, everyone is working hard to improve their own lives, and there are few who are able to stand in others' shoes and see things from a different point of view. For example, when two companies fight over a project, they result in a loss of revenue and they can only increase the market price to continue the battle. As a result, both of the companies and the people would be affected. Why can't they work together to think of a solution that could greatly benefit the people instead?

Another example would be a war between two countries. Many wars are fought for more power and possession. The end result will only be the deaths of the innocent, and great economic losses, so even if you win power over others, what great is there in this? In wars, the ones who suffer most are the people. Here's a simpler scenario: When two friends quarrel over a cookie and both parties refuse to give in, this may damaged their friendship. Instead, if one of them were to step back, then the result might have been better. There are too many examples like this scenario. If everyone were less selfish and able to spare a thought for others, this world would be a better place.

Furthermore, our living environment has been subjected to damage; pollution is becoming an increasing threat. The number of cars in cities is increasing and the exhaust fumes from the cars are causing global warming, and noise pollution is also another issue. Our air and water quality has deteriorated, as we use electricity and fuels excessively. If we were to pay attention and notice the implications of our actions, we have a chance to save our mother earth.

Many children are like my six-year-old self; they like the beautiful flowers, colorful butterflies and the bright, warm sun. Let us prevent the thick smog and haze from blocking the bright sun, cause the extinction of our butterflies, or leave our precious flowers to wither because of the worsening environmental conditions. I hope our future generations can enjoy their childhood as I did. Even until now, my mother's words are still fresh in my mind. I will always remember what my mum told me that day. Mother said "if you want to make this world a better place, you must remember, this world is our home. "