友誼萬歲

求學時期大伙兒有說有笑,一同用功,一同成長,如斯快樂時光最是難忘。可惜天下無不散之筵席,一個階段告終,便是分別之時。畢業在即,或會在紀念冊上互相題贈,盡訴依依離情,送上真摯祝福。

紀念冊中常見的名言雋語多有典源。例如"玉不琢,不成器;人不學,不知義"及"勤有功,戲無益"均出自《三字經》。誠如唐代散文家韓愈在《進學解》所言,"業精於勤,荒於嬉",求學問並無捷徑,必須持之以恆、努力不懈,耽於逸樂自然難成大器。要曉義理、明是非,做學問是不二法門。

孔子是萬世師表,給後世留下了無數金石良言,而 《論語》記載其言其事,自然成為名言寶庫。在《論語•學 而》一篇,孔子闡釋何謂好學之道:"君子食無求飽,居 無求安,敏於事而慎於言,就有道而正焉,可謂好學也 已",意謂君子不求飽足,不求舒適,應該做事勤快,小 心説話,並求教於高人,從而

自我匡正,這樣就是好學了。當中"敏於事而慎於言"常用作互勉的格言。 在《論語·為政》一篇中, 孔子又曰:"學而不思則 罔,思而不學則殆",指出 光讀書而不思考,容易受人 蒙騙;但只是思考而不讀書,卻會缺乏信心。由此可知,汲取知識和訓練思考同樣重要,缺一不可。學海無涯,泅浮越久,便越覺其廣其大,這就是《禮記·學記》所說的"學然後知不足"。

岳飛的《滿江紅》氣勢恢宏,字字鏗鏘,堪稱千古佳作。當中"莫等閑,白了少年頭,空悲切"講出少壯不努力,老大徒傷悲的道理,一針見血。另外,唐代杜秋娘的《金縷衣》,也是莘莘學子互勉時經常引用的一首詩:

勸君莫惜金縷衣,勸君惜取少年時。 花開堪折直須折,莫待無花空折枝。

金縷衣貴重華麗,但青春年華更為寶貴,正所謂一寸光陰一寸金,寸金難買寸光陰。青春固然美好,但始終短暫如花開花謝。雖説太陽每天東升,但凡事推宕容易浪費光陰。勸人把握分秒,善用韶光,也是明代錢鶴灘《明日歌》一詩的主旨:

明日復明日,明日何其多。 我生待明日,萬事成蹉跎。

人生聚散本無常,同窗好友在畢業後便要各奔前程。不過,流水不因石而阻,友誼不因遠而疏。常言"紀念冊中留紀念,莫忘紀念冊中人",別後或許未必常聚,但思念之時翻開一看,再讀當中贈言,同窗生活點滴便浮現腦海,青春歲月又恍如昨天。



Recycled Teenager

Age is a very sensitive topic. With the proliferation of rejuvenating products, which do magic to mask the users' age, it has now become rather difficult to tell people's age from their faces. In fact, it is often regarded as inappropriate to ask a person's age, especially when they are no longer in their prime — the stage in their life when they are most vigorous or successful. If we need to refer to someone in middle age, in particular, a lady, it might be a good idea to use the euphemism "of a certain age", which is usually taken to cover the range between the forties and the sixties.

When we meet friends with small children, we may strike up a conversation by asking the age of these younger acquaintances. Normally, your friends will be pleased to tell you their children's age and share with you the joy of seeing them grow up. This, however, might not work if their children are already in their teens, since teenagers may find this somewhat inquisitive. Teenagers are those aged between thirteen and nineteen, so called because the numbers from thirteen through nineteen all end with "-teen".

Adolescence is often known as the awkward age. This is because adolescents bidding farewell to childhood have yet to find a comfortable way of coping with the transition to maturity. When teenagers come of age, they are about to attain the legal age of adulthood, at which they will

no longer be regarded as underage, which varies from country to country. As adults, they will be expected to act their age, which means to behave in a way commensurate with their age, and be accountable for decisions and actions they have taken.

For many, childhood brings the sweetest memories. Indeed, as people grow old, their childhood tends to "come back". We describe people as being in their second childhood when they behave in a childlike manner. In the good sense, this means they are still full of hope and energy, interested in things that children usually find attractive. But in the negative sense, this means they are already showing signs of dotage or senility, such as becoming forgetful and repeating themselves unintentionally.

Everyone ages with time and develops lines on the face. But becoming mature is not a terrible thing. Some say life begins at forty, because by the time we turn forty, we have already seen and experienced so much that we are now poised for the things we yearn for. As English writer Edward Bulwer Lytton (1803-1873) says, "It is not by the grey of the hair that one knows the age of the heart." To remain young at heart is far more important than counting the number of years we have been through. Recycling is the talk of the day. With more and more birthdays celebrated, maybe we can wittily choose to call ourselves "recycled teenagers". So no one is old, not even the golden agers in their sixties. We are simply "recycled"!