

## 目标07

Influenced by the words of his grandfather

Tai Chiang Ching's grandfather, Tai Yun, is one of the people who most influenced his life.

Tai Yun studied at a school founded by the Japanese government during the colonial period, so he could learn to speak and write Japanese.

When Tai Yun was younger, he worked as a manual labourer at the Taiwan Sugar Corporation located in Huwei, and also as a tenant farmer. Since Tai Yun was very hard working and honest, the landlord really appreciated him. Later, the Kuomintang government implemented policies of a "Farm Rental Reduction to 37.5%" and the "Land-to-the-tiller Act." However, Tai Yun did not ask to reduce the farm rent, instead continuing to contribute the same amount of rice crops for rent as usual. After three years, the landlord felt that Tai Yun was too honest, so he decided to sell 2 acres of farmland to Tai at half price.

Tai Chiang Ching had been close to his grandfather since childhood. He remembered that, when he was a child, he often went out with his grandfather to sell sugarcane and watermelons in the neighbouring village. He remembered that there was once when he miscalculated the amount of money, but his grandfather did not blame him. That made him realise that his grandfather was a kind and munificent person since, in traditional family education, elder members on the paternal side of a family are usually harsh on the children.

Most of Tai Chiang Ching's paternal elders have lived a long life, maybe because they worked as labourers. Tai Chiang Ching's great-grandfather, Tai Wu, seldom had diseases and died of natural causes at the age of 103, when Tai Chiang Ching was 21. Tai Wu was not literate. His way of keeping in good health was taking a bath in the morning and at night, drinking a cup of rice wine during dinner, brushing his teeth after meals and also right after getting up in the morning. When Tai Wu was 89 years old, he joined an athletic

meet held by Yunlin County and participated in the senior group of a 5 kilometre cross-country race, where he won third place.

In fact, he was about to win second place, but suddenly stopped for a short while when he had almost finished the race, right in front of the finishing line, so he missed the chance to win second place. In addition, the participants in the senior group had to be at least 70 years old, and Tai Yun was the oldest one running.

Tai Chiang Ching grew up in a four-generation family. When he was 14 years old, he joined the three-generation family group of an athletic meet held by Yunlin County with his grandfather (who was aged 60 at that time) and his father (who was aged 35 at that time). They won the championship. This showed that he had a good level of interaction with his grandfather, and also that the elders in his family had paid attention to the concept of exercising for good health. This also influenced him.

Although Tai's family was not wealthy, Tai Yun still valued children's education. In order to make sure his children received a good education, Tai Yun was willing to borrow money from relatives or friends to pay for tuition fees and then paid off such debts after he sold crops. In order to make more money to pay for tuition, Tai Chiang Ching's grandmother, Shen Que, usually took a taxi for one hour with her daughter-in-law, Tai Chiang Ching's mother, to work part-time as peanut-pickers in Taixi Village or Mailiao Village. After a few years, when they were getting older, they would bring the vegetables they planted to the market by Huwei Street for sale. They even went to a larger wholesaler to buy and resell fruit in bulk; indeed, they were assiduous traditional women who knew how to make extra money in order to increase the family's income.