

## 目标08

Although Tai's grandparents and parents tried hard to manage and maintain their livelihood, their eldest daughter, Tai Mei (Tai Chiang Ching's aunt) was still forced to drop out of school, because they needed more hands on the farm to help with cow herding. Their second son (Tai Chiang Ching's father) dropped out of school during the sixth grade. However, their second daughter (Tai Mei-que) had a chance to finish elementary school when the family's circumstances turned around.

The third, fourth and fifth daughters, Tai Su-zhen, Tai Shu-yuan and Tai Shu-rong, were able to graduate from high school having received vocational training. In the early days in Taiwan, to have a child graduate from high school was not easy in an average family. This proved that Tai Yun had a vision for children's education, so he was willing to cultivate Tai Chiang Ching's uncle, Tai Rong-hong, and his third aunt, Tai Su-zhen, and helped them to finish vocational high school education at the National Tuku Vocational High School of Commerce and Industry. At that time, this was considered to be an amazing accomplishment. They also didn't disappoint their grandfather with excellent performances in school. When they graduated from vocational high school having specialised in business, managers from some famous companies in Huwei downtown all came to visit the Tai family in person, in the hope that Tai Rong-hong and Tai Su-zhen could work at their companies as accountants. Tai Rong-hong and Tai Su-zhen were very good at abacus arithmetic, and since there were no calculators at that time, skills in abacus arithmetic were required in order to qualify for accounting work. Afterwards, Tai Chiang Ching's aunt served as an accountant at the Far Eastern Department Stores in Taichung, and his uncle started work at the Huwei Branch's Council of Agriculture. Both of them were considered to have a promising future.

Tai Chiang Ching's grandfather believed that his son and daughters had many job opportunities waiting for them because they were good at abacus arithmetic. Thus, Tai Yun was very proud of them, especially when his neighbours showed admiration for having so many well-known people visit their family home in person with

offers of job opportunities. Everyone in the village said that “Mu-zai” indeed knew how to raise children.

Tai Yun was so happy to hear that and told his three grandsons, Tai Chiang Ching and his second brother Tai Zhi-zhang, and the third brother Tai Wei-zhuang, “You have to learn abacus arithmetic, which is a better skill than farming.”

These words came to be deeply rooted in Tai Chiang Ching’s mind. He thought that if he could learn and master abacus arithmetic just like his uncle and aunt, there would be many good job opportunities waiting for him in the city. If he could accomplish this he wouldn’t have to work hard on the farm every day and only make a little money like his parents had. In Tai Chiang Ching’s heart, the difference between “working as a farmer or working with abacus arithmetic” is as far removed as heaven from earth!

On the other hand, since Tai Chiang Ching’s school performance was not good enough, and he was not interested in the subject of National Language, he naturally focused on learning “abacus arithmetic.” He was deeply influenced by his grandfather, so he believed that “the skill of abacus arithmetic” would be a great career he could achieve and pursue for life.

Tai Chiang Ching first learned about abacus arithmetic when he was an eighth grader. He found that he was interested in it and decided to become an abacus arithmetic teacher. Subsequently, he decided to study business and chose “abacus arithmetic” as his lifelong career.

Finally Tai Chiang Ching saw his dream start to come true at the age of 23.