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Opposition arising from the pigeon incident

Since Tai Chiang Ching had turned in a poor school performance during childhood, he was often criticised and compared to others, which hurt him deeply. He finally found his interest and special skill during his teen years, thus showing extreme enthusiasm for it. Even though his family objected to his decision, he never gave up, even without financial support. Indeed, he made even more effort to pursue and study abacus arithmetic.

Tai Chiang Ching had “run away from home” when he was still studying in junior high school because he wanted to protest against his father in a “radical way.” At that time, it was popular for people living in the countryside to raise pigeons, which Tai Chiang Ching did with his friends. Tai had to take care of more than 20 pigeons every day after school, including feeding them, cleaning their cages, and flying them. Tai Chiang Ching used his own allowance to buy food for the pigeons and fed them every morning and night. If the pigeons gave birth, he took the baby pigeons to sell.

Looking at the baby pigeons thrive under his attention, Tai Chiang Ching felt joyful. However, attending to pigeons was considered improper and meaningless in his father’s eyes. His father thought that indulging in raising pigeons could only harm Tai’s school performance. Subsequently, Tai’s father killed all the pigeons he had raised while he was in school.

Such cruel behaviour angered Tai, who ran away from home during his summer vacation. He went to Taichung with friends and found a job as a porter in a brick kiln factory. During the two months of summer vacation, Tai Chiang Ching did not contact his family. He wanted to protest against his father. After two months, he returned home, and immediately felt sorry for his mother who had been so worried about him that she cried every day from the day he ran away from home.

Whenever Tai Chiang Ching remembered this part of the story he felt that he had been too impetuous at that time. He noted that

running away from home was not a way to solve his problems. However, if Tai's father had been able to consider his children's feelings and hadn't educated them in an "absolute" and "authoritarian" way, the young Tai wouldn't have expressed his opinion in such a radical way, which led to a lose-lose situation.

Therefore, Tai Chiang Ching later often urged his students' parents to have a good level of interaction with their children. He suggested that parents interact with children through companionship and guidance, because every child has only one childhood. If their children insist on pursuing their own interests, parents should encourage them to do so and not adhere to their own opinions stubbornly. Parents should give advice and support even if they feel that their children are not on the right track. They should avoid improper disciplining; otherwise they will regret it in the future. Tai Chiang Ching believes that children who learn abacus arithmetic won't indulge in bad behaviour, because they will only want to focus on trying to solve arithmetic problems and remain interested in stimulating their intellectual and mental capacity. Tai thinks that what parents and teachers should do is to guide their children and pupils to develop their own career aptitude.

If the patience, perseverance and intelligence cultivated through learning abacus arithmetic can be applied flexibly, then a person will be able to stay competitive when engaging in any kind of occupation. Tai Chiang Ching has some words written on the wall by his desk in his office: "Only a fool would hope the world can make them happy." The words were from Tai's psychology teacher and mean that "you have to find happiness on your own, don't count on others." Tai always keeps these words in mind. He knows that his personality tends to be conservative and not optimistic enough. He is not a person who can speak out when he is feeling depressed, and seldom thinks about how he can make himself happy, so he often feels "not so happy." Tai Chiang Ching thinks that these words are applicable to everyone. Some people may not be happy because they have lost their direction, and they hope that other people can make them happy. They feel unhappy once they feel unsatisfied. However, happiness can actually be found all the time. When you interact with people on various subjects, such as jobs, family, health, recreation,

financial management, and spirit, “it” is there. Happiness can be created through interaction among people. It’s not something you can ask people to bring to you. Raising pigeons made Tai Chiang Ching happy when he was young, because he could feed the pigeons with imbued expectation, and also talk with friends about how to raise them. After he grew up, he derived happiness from teaching abacus and arithmetic, his interaction with students, their parents and other teachers, expanding his career, cooperating with enterprise partners, and duplicating teaching franchisees. Of course, communicating and interacting with family is the most important source of happiness and satisfaction in his life.