

Jean Cheng

Love passes on

It is six o'clock now. I am driving home from school as usual except it is much later. I have introduced my students to read a book called 'Tuesdays with Morrie', and everyone is required to write a review. Before going back home, I was just marking their interesting book reviews.

In their book reviews, some said the book is meaningful, absorbing. However, the most impressed review is the one that said, 'I don't find this book to be very impressive and I am not very impressed just like the others does.'

Although this book really has some good points, they are too obvious...'

Oh! How a Form 1 girl can say something like this? Doesn't she feel astonished after reading the lines of Morrie or Mitch? For example, I myself was very impressed by what Morrie said about 'Once you know how to die, you learn how to live'. It is amazing, right? I have never thought of that before. I thought living is so easy when you just bury yourself in work. At the end of each month, smile at your paycheck. Then, you earn your living. No, this is not a true way of living. The real way is to enjoy your life and learn how to love the others.

In front of me is a traffic light with peaceful green light holding on. I am going to pass the crossing. Suddenly, a girl in our school uniform runs heading across the road. I step on the brakes, it is no use, the car is heading towards the girl! I swerve my wheel, and - CRASH!

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I try hard open my eyes. I am lying on a bed.

'You are awake finally. Are you all right?' says by a doctor.

Some policemen march in. They ask me about the car accident. I tell them how the accident happened. They ask me whether I can recognize the girl again. I could not. I have only one glance at her back.

They said that I did not knock anybody down. However, the girl I nearly smashed has run away because of fear.

The police go and the doctor comes in. He explains to me that I have broken my leg. I can have sick leave and enjoy a rest.

'No,' I said firmly, 'but I will stay here for one night. I will go back to school tomorrow. I cannot leave my girls with a substitute teacher.'

No matter how difficult it will be, I am not giving up my work at school. Even when Morrie, was so ill with ALS, he still teaches Mitch. He knew that Mitch needed somebody to save him from meaningless life. I have one problem student whom I need to talk to.

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The next morning, I try my best to balance myself on one leg and a stick. I walk precariously. It is really a hardship but at least I can still move from place to place. Morrie could not. He could not even talk easily. However, he tried his best to tell Mitch what he wanted to say.

I arrive at school. Everyone looks at me with disbelief. I start my lesson straight away without explaining to anyone.

I spoke to Barbara, the student who said 'Tuesdays with Morrie' is too superficial. I ask her why she does not think this book is impressive.

'I think that I have learnt most of the wisdom of this world. Yes, most of them. I have already understood death is nothing to worry about. And life will still be going on even how miserable we feel. 'Tuesdays with Morrie' is a good book but I do not believe in what Morrie said about love. I don't believe that what we need in our life is just love. We cannot only feed on love alone, face the reality. 'she says in a peaceful way' By the way, why do you still come back to school?'

I cannot believe that such words are coming from a Form 1 girl. She is so realistic. What has happened to her?

'Do you feel sorry for yourself about your broken leg?' she asks curiously.

'No, I don't. I think that I can learn a lot when I am in situations like this. I can feel the pain of the others who is having even greater sickness. I enjoy being in disasters. Just like Morrie, he felt himself lucky because he is not dying peacefully when he is sleeping. He was glad that he could say good bye and share what he learnt from his disease. I am glad that I have this accident and can learn and share, too,' I answer.

What is wrong with Barbara? I go immediately to check her file. I found that she lives with her grandmother only. Her parents have gone and no one knows where they are. I feel a little bit remorse. Maybe it is natural for her to be so pessimistic.

Something she said is right. Life is going on without any pity. Life will not stop and wait for you. However, I still do not think she should think life to be so cruel. A child should have hope and cheer towards future.

I am going to be her teacher. Just as Morrie probes Mitch into a right direction in his life.

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What can I do? Call her out and talk like a discipline teacher? It is futile.

Maybe I can have lunch with her. It may not be effective. We are so busy in eating and who will do the talking?

The bell goes. I am leaving school now. I cannot drive back home. I can only crawl to the bus station which is far away and take the bus.

I walk and find myself at the spot of my car accident. It is very peaceful here today. There isn't a noise.

I saw Barbara. She is standing there awkwardly.

'Hi, Barbara. What are you doing here?' I ask warmly.

'No, nothing.' she says.

She is hiding some secrets from me. What am I going to say next?

'What are you hiding from me?' No I cannot say this. Err...

I go silent just thinking about what I should be saying.

Barbara looks at me with embarrassment.

'If you do not have anything to say, I may go,' she says nervously.

Ah! I think of something.

'Hey! Do you remember that once Morrie had asked that "Why are we embarrassed by silence? What comfort do we find in all noise?" What do you think about this?' I ask with inquisitive.

'I don't know,' she says with doubt.

'You have said that you know almost all the wisdom in this world. Then, why,' I do not want to continue. I think that questions with too direct meanings are hurting.

'Miss, I find out that I am not as perfect as I am. Till the last moment, I still think that I am intelligent. But when I am here, at this zebra crossing, I do not find comfort,' she says anxiously.

'You seem to be confused about something,' I know some mysteries are going to be discovered.

'I...I ... Yesterday I crossed the road suddenly and an accident was caused,' she says with guilty.

Yesterday, I had a car accident because I wanted to avoid her! It is her, she caused the accident. I am going to tell her that I am the victim of yesterday's event.

'Do you know that I am the victim of yesterday's injury?' I ask.

'What? I don't know. I apologize to you,' she bends her body.

'No. I forgive you. I know my injury teaches you something. I sacrificed and you gain something. It is all right. This is how love goes on, as Morrie said. Everyone is living in this world because someone is sacrificing for them. My parents worked hard for me to study, for example,' I say with forgiveness.

'You really forgive me,' she says, I nod.

'Let go home together. I learnt what is the greatest wisdom, guess what,' she

says cheerfully.

'What is the greatest wisdom,' I ask curiously.

'Knowing that we human cannot understand everything is the greatest wisdom in this world,' she says proudly.

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Thanks to Morrie and Mitch. For inspiring others affecting other lives. The induction of love will go on.

<The End>