

Book Review on Tuesday with Morrie  
By Winnie Wong

Instead of using text books, Morrie merely used his own experience to teach the meaning of life. I think this is a good way of teaching. Actually studying for grades or exams is not a good attitude towards learning. I realize that the study of meaning of life is important since it guides us and inspires us in our daily lives.

Morrie have been encountering various inconvenience since he was certified that he had a brutal, unforgiving illness of the neurological system. In fact, the Brandeis University would have understood his situation if he had skipped his teaching of the final college course. But he did not. I appreciate his persistence and his courage in facing death. He was really a strong-willed person.

Moreover, he was not ashamed of dying. Instead, he shared with others about the meaning of life. He acted as others' listener and helped them solve their problems. I admire his enthusiasm towards life and his optimism in accepting the truth that he was dying. He tried his very best to make his life of great value. I must learn from him in order to avoid regret. He was open-minded. He held a living funeral. I think that was a good idea since it was a good opportunity for Morrie and those he loved to express all their heartfelt feelings that they have never said to one another.

Morrie refused to be depressed by his inconvenience in daily lives and living under the shadow of death. Instead, he acted so optimistic. He jotted down his thoughts and shared with his friends. "Accept what you are able to do" Morrie once said. I think if we really can do it, we will not be unhappy and stressful. "Accept the past as past, without denying it or discarding it." Morrie said. I totally agree with him. If you deny or discard the past, you are cheating yourself. The past is a history. It is a fact. It is meaningless to deny a fact. As long as you do well at this moment, the past will appear to be less important.

Furthermore, some people walked around with a meaningless life even when they appear to be busy doing things they think are important. This is because they are chasing the wrong things, as Morrie said. One of the examples would be: people are always busy at work. Since working is the theme in their life, it seems to be the most important thing but actually it is not. In that case, they are chasing the wrong things. I suggest that we should spare even just a couple of minutes everyday to think about what we have neglected in our life.

Morrie once said, "Someone is gonna to wipe my ass soon. I am trying to enjoy the process. I get to be a baby one more time." The author thought that it was a unique way of looking at it. I think so as well. Most of the people will think that this is sort of embarrassing. It is almost impossible to enjoy it. But Morrie did try to do so. I admire his courage and his wisdom. Ordinary people may not be able to do it. After reading this line, I realized that if we look at things in a unique way, there will be more acceptance and joy.

In addition, Morrie once said, "Now that I am suffering, I feel closer to people who suffer than I ever did before." I think he is right. When everything is fine, we cannot understand others' sorrow and hardships. But when we face frustrations, we feel closer to those who suffer.

Furthermore, Morrie mentioned that there were many things that he could not do, but he could sit there with his dwindling days and look at what he thought was important in life. He had both the time and reason to do that. In fact, this is another example of his idea. That is, looking life at a unique way. I am impressed by his passion towards life. It is amazing that he could still enjoy life in such occasion. Besides, we are too busy everyday. We may neglect the most important thing or person in our life. We may not get a chance to look at people and things around us. I agree with Morrie that, we will have both time and reason to think of life when we are sick. Therefore, sickness may not be a totally bad thing. It just depends on how we look at it. In Morrie's case, he lost his health but he gained in another way.

There were days when Morrie felt depressed. But with love from friends and family, he was up. Walking alone on the road of torture is always the most sorrowful thing. With someone accompanying you, things would be a lot different. Love is such a wonderful and powerful thing. It can be a great energy source which motivates people not to give up themselves or their lives. With love, even the worst situation would be fine.

I am moved after reading the part that someone interviewed Morrie. In the interview, Morrie talked about a close friend who was going deaf. Koppel imagined that one day he and his friend together, one unable to speak, the other unable to hear. Morrie said that they would hold hands and let love pass between them. They don't need speaking or hearing. Instead, they just feel each other. I can imagine the scenario. It is very beautiful and romantic.

Morrie acted as a good role model. He showed everyone that death would not be scary if we are always preparing well. That is, we should not be chasing the wrong things and as a result neglected the important people or things in our life. We should also take action to work out the meaning of life which is to give out love and let it come in.

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