

Thrive at E-Smart

April 2020

From the Headmaster's Desk

Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.

- Mark Twain

Dear parents,

April is a favourite month of mine. It is when the exquisite ball orchid at the balcony of my apartment blooms for the first time of the year. Though the beautiful flower will wither after about 14 days, the other ones will blossom continually and the whole flowering season will last till October, adding wonderful colours to the greenery and giving me much delight

April is also a time when we celebrate life, with Ching Ming (Tomb Sweeping) and Easter as two of the most important festivals in the calendar. I have written a lot about Easter but let me share with you my thoughts about Ching Ming which has not only given me a lot of fond memories but also allowed me to get to know my grandpa and parents better.

What I remember most about Ching Ming as a child was the long and exhausting commute to grandpa's grave. We were often stuck in long lines of vehicles to the cemetery. Though an ordeal on the one hand, it did grant me an extended time to be with my parents who were both working long hours then. Dad was taciturn but mom, extremely outspoken and articulate, would tell me many intriguing stories about herself and the family. Though she might repeat some stories from time to time, she always managed to inject some new light and flavour to keep me interested. One thing I noticed, however, was that she rarely told me stories about grandpa.

Grandpa passed away a few months before I was born, and the yearly visit was the only opportunity for me to hear more about his life stories, but it was only until I was grown and mom had gone home with the Lord that I heard directly from Dad some of his honest feelings when I took him to the cemetery to pay grandpa our respect.

Like many men of his generation, grandpa had two wives who lived in two different towns in China. Grandma died when Dad was just 11, and grandpa moved to live with his other wife, leaving Dad and his older brother to fend for themselves. Too young

to find work like his brother, he sought refuge with an uncle who was the head of a school, and cooked for the staff aside from sitting in the classes. Despite his calm and forbearing tone in recounting his desolate teenage years, I could still feel his deep-seated sadness even after so many years.

What stunned me more, however, was what happened after Dad had grown and married mom in Hong Kong. Grandpa moved to Hong Kong to live with them after his other wife died. Dad had never told me how he reconciled with a father who deserted him when he needed his care most. A man of few words, Dad would simply ask me to go to the cemetery with him on Ching Ming Festival as I am the eldest son (though not the eldest child) of the family. Now that he is reunited with mom in heaven, his feelings will remain a mystery. But his deeds always spoke louder than his words. What Dad did has taught me to love and forgive even when I have been mistreated, and in doing so releasing myself from any bitterness to live a free and fulfilled life.

Such attitude is definitely in tune with the spirit of Easter in which God showed us his utmost love and forgiveness. May such love live in us always!

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

Fong Sheung Man, Adrian	WTE4A Fri 5:30-6:30
Ho Ching Lam, Cynthia	PTW2 Sat 12:00-1:00
Leung Ho Lok, Hyman	PTWB Mon 5:30-6:30
Mak Sze Lok, Joselyn	WTE2B Sat 2:00-3:00
Shum Man Ching, Natalie	GWF2A Sat 3:00-4:00
Tsui Hei Tung, Aiden	PTWE2 Thur 4:30-5:30
Wong Tsz Yan, Yannies	PTWP3 Sat 10:00-11:00
Wu Yan Kiu, Minnie	WTE2A Fri 4:30-5:30

Join Our Online Classes

To ensure that our students continue to learn effectively during school suspension, we are offering our classes online at discounted rates. Please contact our staff for details.

