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淝水之戰 – 移民心聲（五）

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féi shuǐ zhī zhàn yí mín xīn shēng wǔ
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There were three most decisive battles in Chinese history. The first was when the Yellow Emperor (黃帝) defeated his rival and from then on became the common ancestor of the Yellow Race. One of the components that led to his victory was the invention of the South-Pointing Chariot (指南車), which functioned utilizing the same principle as today's magnetic compasses. Some even suggest that that Chariot was the precursor of today's gyroscopes. Evidence for them is that there was no magnetic element in that chariot. Historians named this battle "The Battle of Chasing the Deer" (逐鹿之戰). It got its name from the place the battle took place 鉅鹿。 From then on, when there was a change in dynasties and the several super powers were out to grasp the rein of governing China, the competition would be referred to as "Chasing the Deer" (逐鹿。)

The next was the Battle of the Red Cliff (赤壁之戰). That was during the Period of the Three Kingdoms (三國時代). The history of that period was the most told among all the periods of the entire Chinese history. Novelist Luo Guanzhong (羅貫中) crystalized the Chinese sentiments toward that period in a poem that starts the famous novel "The Romance of the Three Kingdoms (三國演義)。” The poem originally did not have a Chinese title. It was about sixty years ago the American movie "River of No Return" (Remember Marilyn Monroe?) was shown in Taiwan with its Chinese title "大江東去。” Now, sixty years later, when I think back on it, I really cannot think of a better title for this poem. I don't know how to describe it, but reading the poem makes me feel so 'Chinese!'

The third decisive battle was the Battle of Feishui (淝水之戰)。 As a kid, when I heard the name of this battle, 'swage water' immediately came to my mind, because when one pronounces 'swage water 肥水 or 廢水,' it will also be Feishui. But, in fact, Feishui is the name of the place the battle took place.

I will call it the Battle of the Cool Beans. You will know why.

It did involve a cool guy named Xie An (謝安 。) I want to prove to you he was indeed a cool guy. He was the prime minister at that time, and the commander-

in-chief of the southern states for that battle. The battle was fought between the states of the Southern Empire Dongjin (東晉) and the invading Northern

Empire Qianqin (前秦 。) He was playing a chess game with his guest in the back yard of the house when the report of the battle was delivered to him. He read the report, put it aside and resumed playing chess with his guest. The guest asked him what it was and he simply replied, “Just another report from the battle fields.”

The guest left and he couldn't contain his joy any longer, because the messenger had just delivered him the “All Victory!” report. According to the historian, he did break the heels of his wooden sandals when he crossed the snake guard at the door when entering the house.

Now, let us look at another battle field.

It has been only three weeks since Donald Trump officially became the President. People show up at the airports, at rallies, at town hall meetings to voice their concerns and objections and some, anger. Democrats take this opportunity and are out there to get the Republicans. But, very simple, one only has to ask this very simple question: if people really have been agreeing with the Democrats, do you think Donald Trump would have been elected the President? How do you summarize the truth that many have deep in their hearts? “Half pound of one and eight ounces of the other,” word-for-word when compared with the Chinese

saying: 半斤八兩 。

Many are sick and tired of this “Hollywood of the Ugly!” Some people refer to the situation as ‘political dog-fight!’ How unfair to the dogs! My neighbor has two dogs in the back yard and I have never seen them fight!

Then comes this high school teacher in the town hall meeting and she simply says something as simple as 1+2=3. 1) There already is the Medicare Program; 2) there are so many uncovered people who need medical coverages; 3) why don't we simply expand the Medicare Program to cover everyone?

Instead of making issues more complicated, dear politicians, we need more people to make things simple as she does. Please listen to the people. The people are not three-year-old kids. Have some respect. They are most likely smarter than you are. For sure, there are cool beans!

To voice my own opinion toward fighting terrorism, I will like to cite a paragraph concerning Abraham Lincoln:

During the US Civil War, hatred became entrenched between the North and South. In one instance, President Abraham Lincoln was criticized for speaking of benevolent treatment for the Southern rebels. The critic reminded Lincoln that there was a war going on, the Confederates were the enemy, and they should be destroyed. But Lincoln wisely responded, "I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends."

měi guó nán běi zhàn zhēng de shí hòu nán běi duì zhì chóu hèn rì shēn yǒu yī cì rén jiā pī píng lín kěn zǒng tǒng yán jí shàn dài nán fāng pàn jūn zhè xiē pī píng zhě tí
美國南北戰爭的時候，南北對峙，仇恨日深。有一次，人家批評林肯總統言及善待南方叛軍。這些批評者提
xǐng lín kěn zhàn zhēng jìn xíng zhī zhōng nán fāng lián bāng shì wéi dí rén yīng gāi huī miè cái shì lín kěn què zhì huì dì huí dá wǒ huà dí wéi yǒu jiù huī miè le
醒林肯，戰爭進行之中，南方聯邦是為敵人，應該毀滅才是。林肯卻智慧地回答，“我化敵為友，就毀滅了
dí rén bù shì ma
敵人，不是嗎？”

Narrow-mindedness is our only enemy, in politics, in schools, in big companies, in many work places, even churches. Look around the country, and around the world, the same principle applies. But history has shown us not only is it practical to open one's mind to destroy our common enemy, it is actually cheaper. It does take some courage to make this change, but it is definitely much cheaper to the point that it might be the only option.

But however reluctant people want to make this change, how great it will be if we make this change – in our own eyes, in everybody else's eyes, especially in the eyes of the future generations!

I believe America is great and has always been great. And I believe America will always be great! I believe in American values. And I believe these values will prevail. But I have to tell you, there are people -- either new immigrants or immigrants who have been here for generations -- who do not believe in democracy, who do not believe in equality, who do not respect freedom of speech, either of their own or of others'. Those people are the ones who should really be kicked out!

Also, from my observations these many years, I realized one important fact: people who work quietly and fulfill their responsibilities dutifully are the real unsung heroes and heroines of this Great Nation; those are the people who have been making America Great -- nurses, farmers, technicians, soldiers, teachers, doctors, first responders, fire fighters, law enforcers, security guards, office workers, shop clerks, janitors, operators ... you name it -- certainly not those who make a lot of noises and do nothing and certainly not those "so-called" celebrities who for me are nothing but paper roses and plastic tigers played up by the greed of commercialism. Even my students observed better, "Let them be without makeup and you will see how they really are!"

And certainly not those skinny girls stacked together in the cover of the Vogue Magazine reminding me of the leftover of an order of Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Don't get me wrong. Not that the girls in pictures like that one do not look good, but those pictures are sending the wrong messages. As I understand, everybody's mother is beautiful and everybody's father looks good. There are extreme cases when illness does affect the appearance of a person. But that is the doctors' business, not anybody else's business. Everybody looks great in her own way.

When we see the paintings of the masters, Van Gogh for example, he would go to the mines and paint the miners, to the factories and paint the weavers, to the fields and paint the farmers. Be democratic. Learn to appreciate the inner and deeper beauty, the beauty of the plain, the beauty of the common, the beauty of the ordinary, then come back to teach the public. Before you do that, the world will only be clustered with pictures that show only one theme 'shallowness.'

I never understand why as Christians, people have to 'idolize' anybody. I do not watch TV. From time to time, the pictures of performances such as at the Super Bowl will show up in the Internet. The nakedness of the performers does remind me of the Forty Years Wandering in the Wilderness. By law, they can exist, but the general public must also educate themselves enough so that these "so-called" celebrities are put in proper places they deserve in the society. They should not be treated as if they were 'gods' or 'goddesses.' That would be immature and anti-Christian.

tài jí quán

By the way, there are exercises that make people feel and look great as they age such as yoga and taijiquan (太極拳) when aerobics and similar exercises become too robust for them to handle. I believe there are more from different cultures of the world. Even simply jogging will help a lot. Also, I believe in yoga lessons and taijiquan lessons be made free to the general public as one more 'trump card' against high costs of medical insurances.

As a plea to President Trump to show respect to the general public, I will like to pose my own 1+2=3 question here -- I must remind everybody that I do this with 100% respect and with sincerity and good will and I do this for the good of the people -- 1) Ivanka Trump is the head of one branch of the Trump businesses; 2) she works closely with you at the White House; 3) do you want people to believe that she never talks about her businesses with you in the White House?

Is this the example you set for the general public, President Trump, while you say 'Make America Great Again' and 'America First?'

Now, how well Ivanka's line of business is doing will be the best indicator of how your administration is being graded by the American public.

President Obama fought for eight years to bring about changes. Even toward the end of his administration, both President Obama and then First Lady Michelle Obama talked about changes and hope. They were convinced that hope would only come when there were changes. Changes are compared by some as tremors as in contrast to a disastrous earthquake. It is important that changes are encouraged, the same way tremors are welcomed to release energy in the earth – we immigrants from that part of Asia, we know. If this energy is not released, then the earthquake will come, which will be a 'revolution' in social terms. And we don't want that. I, for one, have confidence in you, President Trump, to avoid this earthquake. As an encouragement, I will like to present two more sayings:

liáng shuò kǔ kǒu zhōng yán nì ěr

rén shēng qī shí cái kāi shǐ

良藥苦口；忠言逆耳【Bitter medicines work; sincere advices are unpleasant to the ears】and 人生七十才開始【Life starts at seventy.】

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN, Mr. President Trump. Together, we can solve the problems of this country. And the problems of the world will also be solved, because they all originated from the same thing.

During the US Civil War, hatred became entrenched between the North and South. In one instance, President Abraham Lincoln was criticized for speaking of benevolent treatment for the Southern rebels. The critic reminded Lincoln that there was a war going on, the Confederates were the enemy, and they should be destroyed. But Lincoln wisely responded, "I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends."

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二〇一七年
二月十四日於德州石
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