
PALS NEWS

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The Titanic

Haoua Sereme, Bunkina Faso

The Titanic is a romantic movie. It is based on a true story. In this movie there's an old woman called Rose who relates her own history. The story begins when a poor man called Jack and his friend Fabricio win tickets for travel in the most important ship of England.

On the ship, Jack meets a young beautiful rich woman called Rose when she wants to jump from the brow of the ship because she didn't love her fiancé. Jack and Rose fall in love and they live an exciting story of love. But during the travel, the ship is hit by an iceberg and it sinks. Many people die. Among them is Jack.

In the end of the story, Rose got a necklace called "Ocean's Heart" as remembered by her big love, Jack.

One Nation

Mao-Chuan Lin, Taiwan

"A world government is both desirable and necessary. Countries should simply become the state of one nation, the Earth. In this way, war could be eliminated and wealth could be equally distributed."

But I don't think so. If it is true, there is peace in the world. There is an organization that is called the "UN". It is like a government, but it is composed of many countries. Even if they work hard for peace, there is still war everywhere. Wars are increasing, not decreasing. Maybe the United Nations has its effectiveness, but what is the effectiveness? Is it increasing or decreasing war?

There are different environments, cultures, thinking, and lifestyles in all countries. I believe that it is difficult to merge them. There is still a problem. Who will be the chief of that government? This is a big problem. If everyone wants to be a chief of this united government, they will argue. When they argue about anything, they will fight. If they fight, there will be a new war. So I don't think that it is a good method for countries to become the states of one nation, the Earth.

There is a new movie that I want to see and it is named "Blood Diamond." It describes a country in Africa. This country has many ores, and diamonds are one of them. Maybe you will think that this country is very rich but you are wrong. They are poor because they sell all their diamonds to buy weapons. Even children, everyone has weapons. They fight everywhere and every day. People with the same heritage still fight each other, not to mention people with diversified cultural backgrounds.

People fight for desire. It's impossible that people have no desire, so people will have war forever. I believe even if there are any kinds of united organizations, the Earth will never have peace.

Money is the Most Important Thing in Life

Tae Yoon Kim, Korea

I disagree that money is the most important thing in life because money can't lead to happiness. I think that the most important things in life are happiness and love because we are human. We can't live without harmony with other people. I have some reasons about why money isn't important in life.

First, money can't bring us happiness. Money can improve our lives but we can't buy our happiness. For example, many lottery winners don't live well. Even if they have a lot of money, they fail in their lives; even if they lived happily with their families before they got money. After they got money, the families struggled with how to spend the money. So they began to fight each other. Finally, they get divorced. Some of them lost their money because of gambling. I read the news about lottery winners' lives. Most of them regretted buying lottery tickets and missed their previous lives. Therefore, I think money isn't the most important thing in life.

Second, I think that the most important thing in life is happiness with family. Money just supports our lives and can't bring us a joyful life. Money just gives us a chance to live a high lifestyle. Why do many rich people commit suicide? Why do they take a pill to recover from mental depression? Because people want to live happily not having money.

Therefore, I don't agree that money is the most important thing in life. Money just gives financial aid. We can't buy our lives, health, love, happiness, etc. I think that the most important thing in life is a happy life with family.

Is Money Important?

Nuri Kaya, Turkey

Money, which we use when we are shopping, is the most powerful thing in the world. I don't know that people who used money for the first time thought that it would be the most powerful thing in the world.

People are classified by their wealth, such as rich, middle-class, or poor. If you are rich, everybody admires you. Conversely, if you are poor, everybody looks down upon you. It is very difficult to achieve without money. You can buy anything, such as sports cars, gorgeous houses, yachts, even planes if you are rich. But you can just get material things. What about love, or friendship? You can't get these with money. Suppose that you have many friends, do you think they like you or your money? Also, money makes people lazy. People think that it is not necessary to work or study hard because they have enough money to live in wealth. On the other hand, poor people who want to achieve something study or work hard because they know "success in life requires a great deal of effort." People always spend much time working to earn a lot of money. They lose their health to earn a lot of money because they spend their resting time or eating time working. After they lose their health, they try to get it back by spending money. If you aren't healthy, is money important?

Money is not very important for me. My health, love and friendship are more important

than money. Of course money is important, but it shouldn't be on the first rank. I do not agree with "Money is the power, the power is money."

A Woman Can Do Any Job a Man Can Do

Shen-Ju Chang, Taiwan

I think a woman cannot do any job a man can do. On the other hand, a man cannot do any job a woman can do. In fact, women and men have different abilities. Men have more strength, and they can do some jobs which demand they use strength in the work. In jobs such as these, a man can do better than most women. Most women are sensitive and careful. They can do jobs which need to have more attention to attach importance to details.

When we talk about what kind of people suit the qualifications of the job, we should take account of individual differences, not on gender differences. I think people can do any job which they want to do if they are fit for the job. So I don't agree that a woman can do any job a man can do. Because it's a question of individual differences no matter if the person is a woman or a man.

Money is the Most Important Thing in Life

Daniel Mve, Cameroon

When I see this statement, I focus on two nouns, money and life. The definition of those words allows us to argue better. According to economists, money is a "value reserve". So we can save money for future needs. They also argue that we use money for trade.

Life is a long process of growing. To grow, one needs food, health, education, and shelter. To earn those needs, we use money. Therefore, money can be an important thing in life but not the most important one, because education, one major concern in our growing process, can not be accomplished without money. Another major concern, health, can't be satisfied without money. Shelter and food, other important parts of the life process, can be realized only with money. Consequently, money and life are related. We can not talk about life without mentioning money.

I can assume that money is an important thing in life. But the real question is "Are there any other important things in life above money?"

If we look around us, we will see that money brings a lot of problems. The strong desire for money leads to disasters. Pollution is a common example of disaster caused by addiction to money. Firms want more and more money (profits), even if they pollute, they won't stop.

Finally, money is inevitable in life. But there are other more important things in life than money. Life is the first one because money can not be used by the dead. And there are many other elements that enable life to be better.

The Power of Love

Elcio Zaharko, Brazil

Nothing is perfect in this world. That is why I believe the most important consideration you have to make when you get married is love. Could you get married to someone who drinks a lot? Could you get married to someone who smokes a lot? What about someone who is involved with another person? Of course you could. Why not? When you fall in love, anything

is possible and acceptable.

Now let's say you fell in love, got married, and the bad habits and behaviors which I just mentioned above showed up. What should you do? You don't have many options. You could accept it and deal with it or get divorced.

So when you get married because you fall in love, it means you "accept" all, the bad habits and behavior. But the marriage goes on and the habits and behavior can change for bad or good, and you have to learn how to deal with them.

The reason for my strong belief is that there is no intelligence, no beauty and no money that can build a very strong marriage. The only thing to keep a marriage forever is the power of love.

What is Your Choice in Your Life?

Ensar Seker, Turkey

Everybody sometime asks themselves what the most important thing in life is. I think nobody can answer it exactly, but in general people can say, "The most important thing in my life is money." In life, almost everybody has an aim and wants to achieve their goals. We also have needs for our lives and our targets. The needs depend on everyone's qualifications and positions. For example, a homeless person's needs and aims are to buy any house. A boss who has five stores has the aim of one more store. But basic to both of them is that they need money. I know a proverb about this subject: "I know there are more important things than money, but I need money to achieve them." I think this proverb is better than "Money is the most important thing in life."

Everybody accepts that money is very important in life, but not the most important thing. I know somebody who doesn't have a lot of money but is still happy. I think a lot of money signifies a lot of problems.

Comparison of Eastern and Western Medicine

Byung Ho Dang, Korea

When my wife told that she had pain in her heel, I told her that the cause of the pain might be her uterus. This thinking is common in Korea but very odd in the U.S. The difference between Eastern and Western medicine is very great. Generally, the East's medical philosophy is synthetic, and the West's is analytic.

There are many different ways to find the cause of a disease. Eastern doctors don't think that the cause of a pain is always at the place of the pain. The West focuses on the painful place itself, and then divides the cause into pieces. These different perceptions lead to different therapies for patients. When I had skin trouble, a Korean doctor told me that I had to change my physical constitution, but a Western doctor prescribed an ointment. The East searches for the cause in all the body's systems, but the West searches only in the body part that causes trouble. In order to cure skin trouble in the East, therefore, a patient must change his or her entire life style, but in the West a patient only needs to buy an ointment. The Eastern therapy may be basic, but it takes a very long time and is a very difficult process. The Western therapy gives quick relief and is easy, but the results might be temporary, or the remedy might have side effects.

From these examples, we can see that Asian medicine has developed mainly from the viewpoint of the body's ability to heal itself. In Western medicine, however, surgery and

pharmaceuticals are paramount. I think this means that Eastern medicine is defensive and Western medicine is offensive. For example, in the case of a cancer, Eastern doctors may seek a way of coexisting with it, but the Western doctor seeks a method of killing it.

Nowadays in Korea, many Western doctors are studying Asian medicine, and their Eastern counterparts are studying medicine in the U.S. and Europe. Obviously, each approach has benefits and drawbacks, but joining them may provide the best results. In order to solve medical problems and cure diseases, both synthesis and analysis are needed. For example, I could treat my skin trouble with the Western method and prevent a relapse by changing my life style as prescribed in the East.

Corruption in Chinese Schools

Dong Dong, China

Many years ago, when people in China opened a newspaper and saw some reports about a corruption case in business, most of them would be very angry. “What a shame to do such a thing!” they would say. In the business field, however, merchants exchange goods to make a profit, and as time goes by, we find excuses for their dirty deals: “ Yes, they are businessman and the only thing they want is money.” They are forgiven, even though what they do is illegal. So corruption in business has become as usual as our need to eat and sleep every day. However, in recent years, there has appeared some news that is shocking to everyone, describing in detail the corruption on our schools’ campuses.

The first level of dirty transactions is among the students. I believe that everyone has had the experience of cheating on exams. When we grow up, most of us quit doing so because we realize that even if we can cheat the teacher, by doing so we also cheat ourselves out of learning. Good test scores without knowledge will never help you in your work. Still, there are some who don’t value wisdom. They even pay someone to take their exams. The students find ways to corrupt the examiners—usually the professors—so that every year, after the National Exam for University admission, you can find several news articles about “hired guns” substituting for students to take the exam.

There are deals among students and also between professors and students, but the most unbelievable thing is that a lot of high schools, colleges and universities use their female students to bribe government officials to get what they want: like getting more financial aid from the government, or being listed in the top ten or top 100 of the country. Two years ago, there was a small piece of news in a local newspaper about a university travel team that visited a very famous university in Nanjing, a big city located near Shanghai. The dean of the university sponsoring the team posted an announcement asking for some beautiful girls to serve “important officers”. The announcement was about the advantages that the volunteers could obtain if they served these “big fish” well. The work that the girls would do was simple: have dinner with the officers, dance with them and talk to them. One student who was chosen to do the job said that during the whole time, some professors were watching them. The girls were asked to keep smiling all the time and were even asked to allow the officers to do anything they liked. The newspaper didn’t mention the probable result if the students had refused to do so, but we all know that they might never have graduated from their school. Because the schools in China are controlled by the government, they have the power to do whatever they want.

School, however, is where people should learn. A teacher teaches people to read, write and become strong in their minds. But look around; the classroom is not the holy place where we

acquire knowledge anymore. It has become a medium for businessmen to pursue their profits. Can we now find an excuse for the corruption in schools the way we do in business?

Food Better Than Medicine

Junyeo Park, Korea

When I was a child in Korea, I could often find some delicious food in my kitchen after coming home from school. However, whenever I tried to eat that food, my mother said that it was for my two sisters. So I had to pray that my sisters left some for me.

At that time, my two sisters were very weak. They both got sick every single day. In our home, there was not too much medicine. My mother always prepared some special food for their health instead of medicine. For example, in the summer she cooked Samgyetang-young chicken broth with ginseng, a combination that can increase one's energy and relieve fatigue. In the winter, she boiled some tea with ginger and tangerine peel for a cold, or a pear with radish for a cough. If my mother hadn't done that, my sisters probably would have had to take more medicine than food.

My mother is not a special case in Korea. Even most of my friends who now have babies do the same. They think that the kind of food that will help their family's health depends on the season and their family members' conditions. Koreans believe that the right food is better than any medicine.

Fortunately, Koreans have a good guidebook, *Donguibogam*. It was written by the great Choson Dynasty doctor, Huh-jun, after he had practiced 14 years and studied about 500 ancient medical texts. It is still referred to by modern doctors because of its insight into Asian medical philosophy and theories on the body and medicine. *Donguibogam* has a lot of information about herbs and all-natural ingredients.

One of the attitudes that I find surprising in the U.S. is that people don't care how much medicine they are taking. They eat their daily meals carelessly and then take vitamin pills or digestive aids. Moreover, they take medicine as soon as they feel pain. I don't understand why people choose pills first. Natural nutrients can help to prevent illness, and they are generally harmless. I'd like to suggest *Donguibogam* to American people.

The PALS News is devoted to presenting the writings of our intensive English language students.

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