

ENJOY THE LIFE

This morning I shall speak on four things: enjoying life, the essentials of revolution, combat skills and an introduction to Lao Tzu.

First, I will talk on a very simple subject: enjoying my life. How can I enjoy my life? Many people enjoy their life in dancing, music, painting, and making merry. I enjoy my life in working. If you can enjoy your life in working, you will be very happy in every day and every moment because your work will continue until you are aged and until you go back to God. You may enjoy dancing one hour or two hours, but you will be really tired. You may enjoy the singing, but your throat will have a problem, you know. Enjoying your work is very satisfying.

And I also enjoy my death. I served in the Chinese army 22 years, 16 of those years in battle. More than 150 times I got the chance to enjoy my death. In battle the sound of shooting is very good music. Before I would go to battle my heart jumped very quickly--thump, thump--but I would have no fear. I only think of the fact that this is my time--enjoy my life. Because if I can be dead for my country, it is significant and excellent.

Second, I will talk about the essentials of revolution. Revolution's first essential is a strong and unifying organization. It is just like a human being's body in that revolution's organization is full of life.

The second essential is an unshakeable belief to keep consistent from the start to the very end because revolution is a great and long race. Those who can keep going until the last five minutes will be the winner. If we want to be the winner, we must keep on struggling until the last five minutes.

The third is concentrated forces. It is the spirits, energies, wisdoms, thoughts, tears, blood and perspiration of every comrade gathered, one and all. We can say we are one.

Fourth, the spirit. The spirit is the most important dynamic of action. It pushed our action on to conquer any barrier to win the revolution.

Fifth is sacrificing spirit. Sacrificing spirit may be said to be like the dew that refreshes the flowers. Our revolution is a flower in our minds. We must have spirit refreshment to grow day by day, month by month, year by year, to grow up like a big tree in this world. When we are really alive, we sacrifice all that we have, such as spirit, physical strength, energies, times, enjoyings, money, etc.

Sixth is struggling spirits. When we are in mission, we need not worry about success or failure; we only do it as it should be done. But we must have a good calculated plan, or steps, doing and doing until we get the results, succeed or fail. If you are successful, don't be too happy. Perhaps there may be something wrong. If you fail, there is no need to worry too much because you have been given a good teaching and experience. Continue to do your mission. This attitude we may call confidence. Only the confident can struggle. The gloomy can only lose everything.

The seventh is strategy and tactics. Strategy is the highest guiding principle. It must be formed from beginning to end. Our strategy is walking into local communities to serve local people to help them to stand up by themselves. We may name it "mass movement" or "route to the masses". This is our strategy. Questions such as how to walk into local community, how to do various types of training, how to do projects -- all these are tactics. There are countless changes as in battle. Tactics must be suitable to many, many kinds of situations and circumstances.

Eighth, a Chinese proverb said, "Those who obey the mandate of heaven will prosper while those who defy it will perish." Another proverb said, "Follow the mandate of heaven and comply with the popular wishes of the people." I think that these are our spirit and our principles. Here the word "heaven" means "God" and also "Tao". If our aim and way of doing things are according to "God's will" or the "Tao", we shall succeed. It is a story recorded in history over and over without doubt.

Now I want to talk about combat skills -- how to fight. The first skill is launching a psychological offence. Sun Tzu said, "The highest form of generalship is to balk the enemy's plans." You must first discover what he thinks he needs. Then, with a very small battle you can deliver a powerful attack. It means our strategy exceeds the enemy's strategy and our tactics overtake the enemy's tactics.

The second is to concentrate on all the information as much as we possibly can. Sun Tzu said, "If you know the enemy and also know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles." Knowing all the information is essential to winning the victory. With no information you can make no preparation. If you have no preparation your action is blind. In the army all blind action is very, very dangerous. In this circumstance sometimes all the troops are killed by the enemy.

Third, to cope with shifting events, stick to fundamental principles. It means do not decide or adopt any action before you know the true situation or any barrier or block.

Fourth, fight evil with evil. It means use a different poison to neutralize the enemy's poison. This will cause it to be ineffective or useless. This is a very good skill for your fighting. In battle, I always use this skill to attack my enemy.

Fifth, wait in comfort. Don't be in a hurry. Keep your mind in comfort, and wait in comfort for an exhausted enemy. This means wait for the best opportunity to attack the enemy. Wait for the moment of your own best advantage.

The last principle I think you may find yourself repeating. A wise rabbit has three holes. I will ask you while you are on the job, how many holes do you have? A foolish rabbit has only one hole. The hunter comes-- "Here is a rabbit to hunt." If you have three holes, the hunter never will find you.

Here is a simple introduction of Lao Tzu. To give you some background, a Chinese historian named a period of history the "epoch of spring and autumn". It runs approximately from 722 to 484 BC, about 2,217 years ago. There were many states raised up in that time. Each had their own independent government policy. They were ambitious to dominate each other so the political and the social situation was very chaotic and human hearts and wills became very crafty and cunning. Lao Tzu wrote a book and named it Moral Classic. (The other name is Lao Tse, as we read it now.) The objective of Tao is a pure and plain natural power. Its role is to eliminate the dispute from human society and make the individuals' living fortunate and tranquil.

How can people attain this goal? First, human characters are patterned by the Tao's principles in a natural and self-initiated way. Second, the government must not interfere in the living of its people. Third, society must be rid of the injury of war. Fourth, people must discard luxurious living. Fifth, the upper people guide the common people in their return to faithful forms and a calm mood. Sixth, judicious guidance must be given according to the circumstances of every job. Seventh, only this event lets nature take its natural tendency. Eighth, one must keep open-minded to the conditions of one's living and be prepared to receive any thrust or impact of pleasure, anger, grief, sorrow, etc., and relax in it by the Tao. Ninth, pay out what you have as soon as possible so you can help and love the others as yourself. Tenth, decide to be a giver, not merely a receiver.

What is the Tao? Tao is a magical, enormous, mystical, incomprehensible, unsubduable, irresistible and immortal force which controls the whole universe. Everything in the universe is living in its power, but most people do not know it because it cannot be seen or touched. We cannot deny its existence. The scientists call it "natural force" (or natural law). But we human beings revere it as "God". The individual, the family, the society, the country, the world, the universe: these are witnesses to the presence of Tao.

In conclusion, Tao is the inclusive force around the universe. Tao controls everything in the universe. The universe is living in the Tao. If any humanity, family, society, country or world disregards the Tao, it will be harmed or ruined. There are so many examples in the history of the world.