

Shunique #08



The Year of Dragon

It's All On Your Face

Beware of What You Are Doing with Your Hands

Word Expressions

A Worthwhile Experience in Austria

*Awesome, Spectacular and Reassuring -
Surfers' Paradise*

Fulfilling A Day Of Life

Broadcasted from the World

20th HK Catholic Diocesan

Secondary School Joint Athletic Meet

Shunique Teacher Consultants:

Mr. Chang Chee Yu-Chi, Matthew
Mr. Ng Ka Yu

Shunique Editors:

Shing Yee Tim, Janice 4C
Ng Cheuk Ying, Venus 4C
Li Wing Tung, Sophia 4E
Ho Pui Ting, Christine 4C
Leung Tsz Kwan, Clare 4C
Tang Shui Hong, Danny 2E

Mathesis Editors:

Miss Chow Wing Tuen

Origin of The Chinese Dragons

Chinese dragons traditionally symbolizes potent strength and auspicious powers, in particular control over water, rainfall, hurricane, and floods. The dragon is also a symbol of good luck. With this, the Emperor of China usually uses the dragon as a symbol of his imperial power. It is said that Emperor Yan's mother was incarnated as a dragon after her death. Therefore, Chinese people are so called, "Descendants of the Dragon".

Besides, in ancient Chinese mythology, Nüwa 女媧 and Fu Xi 伏羲 who have dragon bodies with human heads. They are symbolized as the ancestors of dragon.

But did you know that there are also dragons in Western folklore? Are Western people having the same notion as Eastern?

Origin of The European Dragons

European dragons which are considered evil are viewed as dangerous creatures that are released to eat people and inflame towns. The Chinese dragon and Western dragon both are just illustrious animals. Similarities and differences are found between the two because the ideas and beliefs of people in the East and West are vastly different. They both possess giant and powerful bodies and the skill of flying. A difference maybe the Chinese dragon sprays water but the Western dragon spits fire. Chinese dragons have four claws while Western dragons are embedded with brawny wings. Western dragons often resemble dinosaurs

with horns and a spiky back. The dragon also has a connection to the New Testament of the Bible. Dragons and snake carry a negative implication. They represent as a serpent which then symbolizes the devil. Undoubtedly Satan is the incarnation of all things wicked.

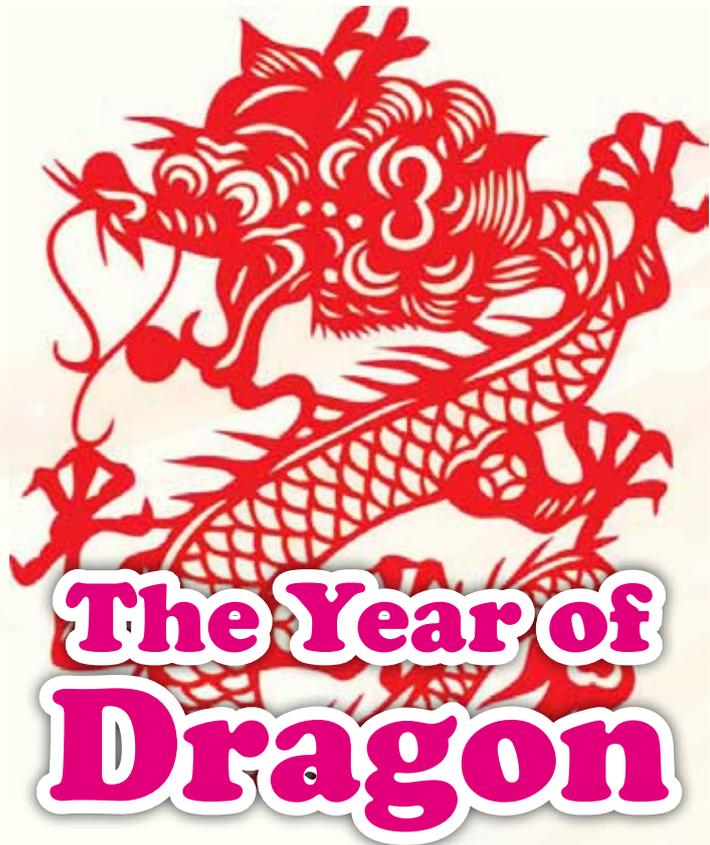
Hoping a son will become a dragon year baby?

Under the strong influence of Chinese belief, couples desire to give birth to "dragon babies" while the elderly hope the younger generations get married during this flourishing year. Everyone wishes their children can be as brilliant and divine as a dragon, therefore many children are obliged to comply with parents' demands. Yet every single child possesses the inherent talents

and personalities of a dragon. It is always not proper to interfere in a child's preference. There is a legend about a Dragon's offspring. The dragon has nine offspring who have diverse skills and dispositions. Bixi 赑屭 is the oldest among the nine of them and looks like a tortoise. He is capable to carry bulky object for example.

So what is the conclusion that we can draw from this tale? That Dragon's offspring do not behave like smart and powerful dragons. From this case, can parents just let the little children be who they are? It will be awise parenting method for the younger generation to discover their talents. Even if the children cannot be 'dragons', I believe that their individualized abilities can render them to be one of these sacred creatures with varying talents. All of us were not able to control being born in the year of Dragon; nevertheless, we should keep hunting for our unique aptitude.

By Shing Yee Tim (Janice) 4C



It's All On Your Face

By Ng Cheuk Ying (Venus) 4C

There are 43 muscles on your face. They make it possible to convey nonverbal messages across culture. Mastering the technique of reading facial expressions undoubtedly helps you know one's genuine thoughts in his head.

It is known that the eyes are the "windows to the soul", they are capable of conveying a multitude of emotional messages. When a person looks directly into your eyes when having a conversation, it indicates that they are interested and paying attention. However, prolonged eye contact can feel threatening, so in conversation we frequently look away to avoid discomfort. Yet, breaking eye contact frequently may indicate that the person is distracted, or is

trying to conceal his or her real feelings. Breaking eye contact can also indicate that something that has just been said makes the person not want to sustain eye contact, for example when they are insulted, feel threatened or want to hide their true feelings. Sometimes a liar, will over-compensate by looking at you for a longer period than usual. It is usually done without blinking as they are forcing themselves into this act. A good way to tell this is whether or not they smile with their mouth, but not with their eyes.

Speaking of mouth, mouth expressions and movements are also essential in reading one's mind. Smiling is perhaps one of the greatest body language signals used

by animals and humans alike. Generally regarded as a friendly signal in every region of the world, smiles can also be interpreted in many other ways. A smile can be genuine, or it may be used to express fake happiness, sarcasm, or even cynicism. A genuine smile could be identified by the raised-up outer lips. The muscles surrounding the eye sockets will also contract naturally and the space between eye lids and eyebrows will become smaller as the muscle contract.

Yes, a person can act to cloak their thinking and feelings but facial expressions are so instinctive that can hardly be faked. Most of the time, most people really show what they feel and think. It's all on your face.

Beware of What You Are Doing with Your Hands



Do you use hand gestures to communicate? Don't tell that you don't because you use it every day, like waving your hands to indicate "hello" and "goodbye". These hand gestures undoubtedly help us communicate in our daily lives. However, some gesticulations can represent an insult in other countries. Let's see what gestures are included in this "black list".

When people have done a job, you usually use the thumb-up sign to mean "well done", "good", or "go ahead". This hand gesture is commonly used in Western countries. In Italy, the thumb-up gesture also carries the meaning of hitchhiking. However, in some countries, this sign should not be used. In Sardinia, Greece, Thailand and Iraq, people treat the sign as a sexual insult! Remember to keep your thumbs tucked safe inside your palms when visiting these places.



People in our country always use "V-sign" to indicate "victory" or "peace", or just even "happiness". Yet, an inverted V-sign is a grave insult in Britain. There is a popular theory about why this is so. Let's go back to the time when England and France were at war. The

French cut off the index and middle finger of England's best archers to render them useless as archers. Eventually, showing these two fingers becomes a very rude sign in Britain. Also, the inverted V-sign is very impolite in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland. It seems that we should never make an inverted V-sign although it represents cuteness in Japan.

In order to get a person to come closer, beckoning them with your index finger is the way to do so and it is well-known in United States. Nonetheless, the sign is extremely rude in Japan and not very welcomed in Asian



counties all together. Also, it symbolizes death in Singapore. The Japanese way to beckon someone is to wave four fingers with the palm out. Different cultures have their own ways to request somebody to come closer.

It is true that not all hand gestures mean the same in varying parts of the world. A friendly sign to us may stand for an offensive insult to others. Next time, when you are talking with a foreign person, make sure your hands do not give off the wrong signal, or you may get beaten up.



By is Li Wing Tung (Sophia) 4E

What's More

The "ILY" sign, "I Love You"

This gesture is an informal expression of love.

BLAH-BLAH

This sign is used to indicate that someone talks too much.

MOVEMENT OF CUTTING THROAT WITH THUMB

Doing this action is considered a threat in many cultures. However, in Russia, this same gesture means the gesturer is full or cannot eat anymore.

KNOCKING ON WOOD

It is a gesture used to ensure that a good thing will continue to occur. It is also used after speaking of an unfortunate event, so that it does not actually occur, similar to the action "touch wood".

FINGERS CROSSED

This sign represents "wishing for good luck or fortune" or "hoping".

Word Expressions



Did you ever surf YouTube channels only to hear ‘vloggers’ greeting their subscribers using terms that you rarely hear people use? There are numerous terms that are not in the dictionaries and extremely hard to understand by the untrained ear. To be honest, some of it doesn’t even sound like English!

In reality, people of the world own their different

version of ‘slang’ terms which are all distinctive to a certain region. Occasionally, these words might reveal the cultures and spirits of local all over the wide globe. It’s actually quite engrossing to learn those words for personal use and amusement. Some are hysterically funny while others change in meaning over time. So here, we are introducing you with a few peculiar phrases. Check them out.

What to say?	What does it mean?	How to use it?
And then I found five dollars	At the end of a story that had no point to be told to someone. There is also no point of telling people you found 5 dollars	"Yesterday I went to the fridge and took out some yogurt but put it back and got an apple instead and then I found 5 dollars."
Running latte	Being late to work because you stopped for coffee on the way	"I reported to my boss that I got stuck in traffic but actually I was running latte."
Holiday pounds	The extra amount of weight you put on during a vacation	"I am overwhelmed by the holiday pounds I gained as I can hardly move."
First nap of the day	To tell a person who sleeps too late	"He is having his first nap of the day when we were holding a meeting."
Off the chain	Something fantastic, awesome, and especially in extreme situations	"I can't believe I am the champion of this race! That is so off the chain!"
A tongue typo	Saying something inadequate, wrongly.	"That's a serious tongue typo that I made so many grammatical mistakes during the presentation."



35mm

Captivated by a petite machine, with the lens and rolls of films
 All I do is press the shutter, let out a note sounding crispy
 Memories inside of the negative are intact and are never grim
 Enable the world to stop and let a second last for centuries
 Readjusting the exposure, aperture and focuses
 Allow my eyes to peep through the midget window
 Scouring the earth to capture the wondrous.



By Ip Chi Shun (Frances)

A Worthwhile Experience in Austria



Getting the chance

I had never thought of myself as becoming an exchange student. I wasn't that 'type' of student. I thought those students must be very intelligent and brave. Now, living here in Austria, I realize the most important thing is not about how clever or brave you are, but how passive or active you take your life and studies. I am not a clever person, but I have lots of passion towards personal experience and by default, the exchange programme.



My new life in Austria

To experience life in Austria is really awesome. The first week I stayed with my host sister's husband and children in Krems, a city near to Vienna. So I got my chance to visit romantic Vienna. It was as picturesque as all the pictures you see on T.V. and travel guides. A few days later I moved into my host family in Carinthia in the south part of Austria. They were and still are such a nice and warm family. We have five people living together including Mom, dad, two older brothers and little me. We get along very well. My host dad owns a car company and our house is very near it. Therefore I can find them in the office anytime I have troubles or worries.

We have gone to Salzburg where Mozart was born and the film "Sound of Music" took place. My host mum and I even went to Italy for shopping for the latest trends out of Milan.





A nature and music paradise

I am totally amazed by the scenic views here even outside my window. My home is not in a city, so what is surrounds us is farm land with grass and snow capped mountains. You can always see sheep, horses and cows somewhere nearby.

Music is another thing you can experience in Austria. My entire host family sings in the local choir. They and my classmates all love music. We usually attend a concert on Saturday evenings. They have such a rich and vibrant music culture. I am glad that I can still continue my piano training in this musical paradise.

Cultural shock

There are always differences in culture between countries and people. So it is very normal to experience cultural shock as an exchange student. But my own personal experience in cultural shock doesn't seem so serious. The idea that I kept reminding myself is to have an open mind to accept the differences of people and cultures. At times difficult situations do occur, but family and friends usually step into help.

Another thing I have to face is the language barrier issue. I have to learn German in order to communicate with locals since people here mainly speak German. Luckily, most of them also know English, so it makes things a bit easier when I can switch to English as a backup. By the way, a good language environment helps a lot too. It is the quickest way to learn any language.



In the End

In the end, I am a blessed girl with a positive exchange experience. I have transformed my thinking and my view towards the world. In many ways the world seems bigger and smaller all at the same time. I look forward to seeing you back in Hong Kong and sharing my experiences. I was once just like you thinking that being an exchange student needed special language abilities and extreme bravery but unlike you I have overcome my passivity and became outgoing and active. There is no reason why you can't do what I doing if you are given the opportunity. I thank God for this life changing experience.



Awesome, Spectacular and Reassuring - Surfers' Paradise

By: *Leung Tsz Kwan (Clare) from 4C*

With the warm wind breezing past my face, reassuring sunshine, beautiful view and nice company, I had a super awesome time in Australia last summer.

Last summer, I went to the Gold Coast near Brisbane, Australia for a two-week study tour. Once we arrived in Queensland, we started our journey at Bestbrook Mountain Resort. It is a traditional Australian farm owned and operated by people who host students for a home stay experience; it was a perfect setting to escape our busy Hong Kong lifestyle. The most impressive moment during that stay was experiencing a camp fire. We sat under a big tree, around a warm, powerful and comfortable camp fire. We even danced and sang Australian songs together. Laughter and joy filled the air. Time passed very fast, and we were already back to the city center after staying there for two days.

Once we were back in the town, we met our home stay family. Rain and I stayed with the same family. They were so nice. They took us to the most famous beach, Surfers' Paradise, on the first family day. We walked along the beach but the water was chilling. The sunshine was extremely bright as people were having a nice sunbath. Everything was picturesque. I have never seen this beautiful scene in Hong Kong.

We also attended a local school and familiarized ourselves with a different teaching style. The teaching style was completely opposite to that of Hong Kong schools. Teachers were not as strict; they allowed students to have lots of discussions in class. Students

there did not have a fixed classroom. They had to shift rooms after each lessons. It was unlike Hong Kong, but it was quite similar to how New Zealanders hold class as experienced in my last home stay.

Going to Australia, is not just for learning English, but also for experiencing other cultures as well. You have to explore it on your own. It is quite difficult to describe in words the feeling and even more difficult to relay that feeling to others. Experiencing the culture, in-taking everything local, has to be a personal experience.

I recommend our fellow students, grab your chance, go and explore the world outside your comfort zone.



Fulfilling A Day Of Life



Ho Pui Ting (Christine) 4C

Waking up at 6:00 a.m., get out of the bed, swiftly run to the washroom and the most critical thing to do before leaving the house, 'grabbing your bread and butter' to fill up the time when you are waiting for the bus! 'Ah-ha!', It has already been washed into the brains of we 'Hong Kongers' experience a suffocating start of a 'normal' Hong Kong morning. It is always crucial to rush in this time of day. This lifestyle leads to loads of grumbles about how the quality of life is better in other countries, where the pace of life can be slowed. So the question begs to be asked, how do people across our Hong Kong borders usually plan for a day?

Australia is often seen as a country of relaxation and easy pace; it is perhaps quite realistic. Australian people generally don't take pleasure in working like machines. They see work as a routine job until

mid-day. You can hardly see shops still operating after 5:00 because they have already ended their workday! Because Australia has a favorable geographic location, which means loads of beaches and reefs, Australians don't waste what the nature has granted. They prefer arriving early with their surfboards, swimsuits, or whatever they can use in aquatic sports and battle with surges of waves. Many of them seem to be born wet and sun burnt which is never a big deal in their eyes.

Germany, the Mecca of beer. Germans are physically the composition of sausage, cabbage and potato washed down with several sides of beer. They are full of blonde hair, blue eyes, coolness, and calculated distance. Germans know how to have a hearty laugh and enjoy a peaceful afternoon at the corner cafe. It is extremely difficult to explain in so few words just how

diverse today's Germany really is. If you are looking for characteristics that broadly describes inhabitants of Deutschland, it may be worthwhile mentioning their passion for cars, soccer, a slight obsession over the weather, or the mass consumption of their favorite drink: beer. Now you know how a German enjoys his life, one mug liter at a time.

The most interesting fact that entices travelers like backpackers to go on a 'trip around the globe' is that they can discover things that they can never experience staying in one location forever. It is no doubt and easy to admit that a prosperous metropolis like Hong Kong, is a 'work machine'. But life needn't be rush, rush, rush. In other regions of the world, people maybe living very easily and comfortably while still providing all their daily needs. Go and search for a lifestyle that you long for and see if you can plan your days.

Broadcasted from the World

By Tang Shui Hong (Danny) 2E

I believe that all of you have a television at home. So what kinds of T.V. programmes are you usually watching? As we all know, there are hundreds of television programs available through standard Hong Kong channels with a range of categories. If that doesn't suit your fancy, you might also choose to watch international shows though we are in Hong Kong. It is a good chance to expose yourself to other cultures and nationalities as well as introducing yourself to some fantastic T.V. programmes while surfing through channels.



The first show to introduce is one of the most famous game shows in all of Korea and it is called "Running Man". The game rules are simple, which is to stay alive by preventing others from tearing your name label from your back. It sounds very basic, right? But try playing this game citywide, against another team and with challenges included. From time to time, there will be some special guests invited, such as K-pop stars, on the show to compete with the original members of "Running Man". Moreover, the show doesn't simply take place in Korea. On some extraordinary occasions, the members can take an invaluable opportunity to visit places in China, such as Beijing and even our fair city, Hong Kong. Nevertheless, during the game, they are bound to face communication, cultural, logistical problems. All in all, it

will obviously be an unforgettable experience for those participating and those viewing the show.

The second takes place in the United States. You definitely cannot miss "America's Got Talent". This show allows people possessing talents and potential to display them in front of the American audience and see if they will agree that they have talent. Nonetheless, some performers can be criticized by the judges mercilessly. It is funny that this show is so popular that many other countries have adopted the show's format and created one of their own. Whatever "[countries'] Got Talent" shows are popping up all over the world, like "Britain's Got Talent", "Australia's Got Talent", "Thailand's Got Talent" and even "China's Got Talent". If you want to perform your talent, this show is a good place to start, but you better make sure that your talent will wow the audience.

Alas the message is clear; I hope you will try to discover more foreign programs instead of only watching local ones. I highly recommend the above programs to you all since you can really learn something about the interest of foreigners and diversity of cultures. Hope you will enjoy the T.V. programs as I do.



20th HK Catholic Diocesan Secondary School Joint Athletic Meet

Athlete: Li Tsz Tung (Vicky)

Event: Women's Shot-put (Champion)

Question: What do you enjoy most about Track and Field events?

Answer: Winning and holding the medal in my hands is the most enjoyable part, it's the result of previous efforts finally paying off. I gain tremendous satisfaction from it. What's more are the accolades from other teammates after the victory and the cheers from friends that encourage me to keep on. This puts a smile on my face.

Question: How much time and effort did you devote to practise?

Answer: I usually join the routine practice with the athletic team at school in order to get myself prepared. However, the two weeks before the real competition is the time I focus the most. I usually practise on my own at home.

Question: How did you feel after finishing your event?

Answer: When I was on the field waiting for my turn, I put great pressure on myself. I was afraid that I would not be able to break old records but once I successfully broke the shot put record, I could not find a single word to describe how I felt. It was so surprising and after all, this experience was really good encouragement for future athletic meets.



Athlete: Ho Kwun Yin (Tom)
Events Men's 4x400 Meter & Long Jump

Question: What do you think about the race you have joined?

Answer: All participants are so competitive. All of them ran so fast and I could not catch up with their staggering speed. When they surpassed me, I really wanted to speed up but I just couldn't. Overall, I believe I performed better than usual.

Question: You said that you wanted to join the Triple Jump originally, what makes you fond of the Triple Jump?

Answer: It makes me look cool and it's a fun sport. I hoped to master it. I feel great when I jump. However I don't have much time to practise it as Handball takes most of my time.

Question: How do you feel about the Joint Athletic Meet this time?

Answer: In all finality, I can say there is always a mountain higher than the one you're on. Our teammates are the top in our school, and yet when we are put against other athletes across dioceses, we have so much to improve. I feel a bit disappointed that I was beaten.

Question: How will you describe the competition?

Answer: The matches made me feel as if I was in a hall of raging fire. I saw a runner suddenly fall during the race, and promptly stood up and chased after us. The races were so intense and at the same time I felt the spirit of an athlete's hearts.



Athlete: Mok Kiu Hoi (Tommy)
Event: Men's 100 Meter

Question: What do you like most in this event?

Answer: I love the feeling I get when I am racing, the wind rushing against my face; all I can hear is my own heartbeat. It's marvelous to compete with other racers and test my own ability.

Question: It sounds that you really enjoy taking part in races. How much time did you devote for this event?

Answer: Well, it's a shame that I haven't been putting too much effort in this race since it's exam season. I just received training during school time and the two-day athletic camp sad to say. I think I can achieve a better result if I devote more time to practise.

Question: How do you feel after finishing your events?

Answer: In fact, the results were not to my satisfaction. Yet it's what I expected. I think I will practice more during the holidays.

Athlete: Choy Ting Ting (Amy)

Event: Women's 1500 Meter & Women's Hurdles

Question: What do you enjoy about the events?

Answer: I enjoy the feeling of satisfaction. For example, I felt happy after the Hurdle because I felt like I had overcome by finishing. Also, I enjoy being with my teammates in the 4x400 Meter event. We shared everything together and helped each other, like massages. I felt united.

Question: How much effort and time did you devote to the practise?

Answer: Due to the exams, I did not practise much. My only practise was during the Athletic Camp. I hope I will do better next year.

Question: How did you feel after finishing your events?

Answer: Relieved! I had no more pressure after finishing the events. I also felt a little bit sad because I was so close to winning the 1500 Meter gold medal. The opponent was very strongly and I admired her. She was great. Hope that I can defeat her someday.



Athlete: Tse Ka Kiu (Kiwi)

Event: Women's Hurdles

Question: When did you first become familiar with this event?

Answer: I tried hurdles during P.E. lesson. I found it interesting so I decide to join the hurdles event for our school's Sports Day. I achieved surprisingly good results so I was chosen to be our school's athletic team member.

Question: Woah, you are really confident in taking up challenges that are unfamiliar. What do you like most about hurdles?

Answer: I think hurdles are just cool. It's more challenging than sprinting since you have to cross every hurdle as well as keeping up your speed. The timing and form are very important too.

Question: How do you feel after finishing your race?

Answer: Ah... Let's not talk about it. I was nervous when racing competitors. I could not bring my full ability out. Anyhow, I was proud of myself that I could cross ten hurdles with my best record yet. I'm all smiles.

Application of Binary and Hexadecimal Number System

Miss Chow Wing Tuen

Binary System

The number system we usually used is called decimal system. There are different number system and binary number system is one of the popular one.

In binary number system, only digits used are 0 and 1. Any number in the binary number system is formed by the combination of these two digits.

Here are some examples of binary numbers: 1100_2 , 1010_2 , 100110_2

To count using binary number:

o Binary numbers starts from 0

o Next number is 1.

o How about the next number? Just like in decimal numbers, when the count reaches 9, the next number will be 10.

In binary number, since only 0 and 1 are used, the number after 1 will be 10.

o Here is the counting of binary number compare to the counting of decimal number:

Decimal Number	Binary number
0	0
1	1
2	10
3	11
4	100
5	101

Decimal Number	Binary number
6	110
7	111
8	1000
9	1001
10	1010
11	1011

Decimal Number	Binary number
12	1100
13	1101
14	1110
15	1111
16	10000
17	10001

Hexadecimal number

In binary number system, 2 digits (0 and 1) are used. In decimal number system, 10 digits (0 to 9) are used. In hexadecimal number system, 16 different digits are needed. Therefore, the digits used in hexadecimal system are 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E and F.

The counting of hexadecimal is shown below.

Decimal Number	Hexadecimal Number
0	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9

Decimal Number	Hexadecimal Number
10	A
11	B
12	C
13	D
14	E
15	F
16	10
17	11
18	12
19	13

Decimal Number	Hexadecimal Number
20	14
21	15
22	16
23	17
24	18
25	19
26	1A
27	1B
28	1C
29	1D

Decimal Number	Hexadecimal Number
30	1E
31	1F
32	20
33	21
34	22
35	23
36	24
37	25
38	26
39	27

Relationship between Binary and Hexadecimal Number System

Only one digit in hexadecimal number system can represent 16 different values (0 to F).

To represent 16 different values, four digits in binary number system are needed. (0 to 1111)

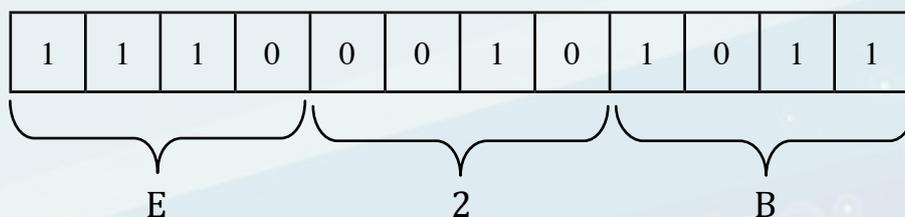
The comparison between the values binary and hexadecimal are shown below.

Hexadecimal Number	Binary number
0	0
1	1
2	10
3	11
4	100
5	101

Hexadecimal Number	Binary number
6	110
7	111
8	1000
9	1001
A	1010
B	1011

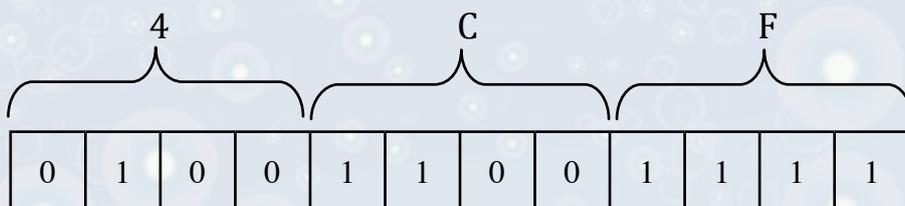
Hexadecimal Number	Binary number
C	1100
D	1101
E	1110
F	1111

Therefore, we can do quick conversion from binary numbers to hexadecimal by grouping them into groups of four digits. The conversion of a binary number 111000101011₂ to hexadecimal number is shown below.



Therefore, 111000101011_2 can be converted to $E2B_{16}$.

On the other hand, hexadecimal numbers can be converted to binary number by converting each hexadecimal digit into 4 binary digit. The conversion of $4CF_{16}$ to binary number is shown below.



Because of the easy conversion between binary and hexadecimal numbers, many different applications use binary and hexadecimal numbers together.

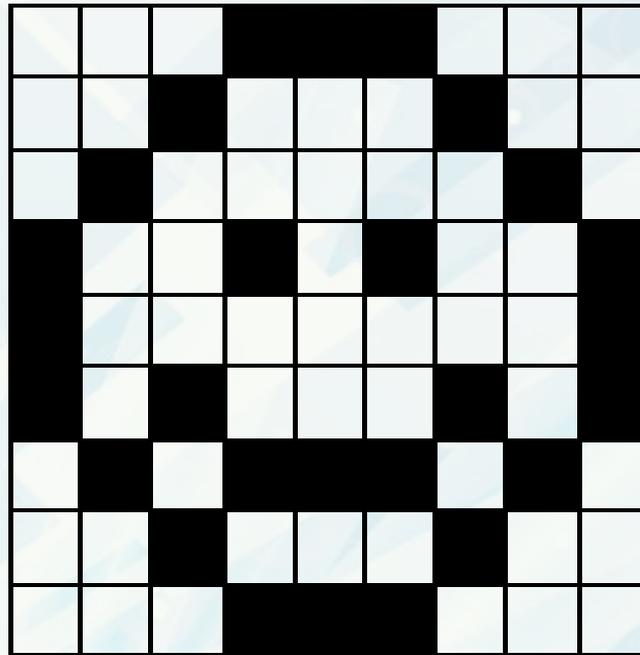
Applications of Binary and Hexadecimal number in Computers

Binary number system is used in computer as the electric circuits in the computer are only two states: on and off.

For example, the files on a DVD are recorded as tiny little holes that can be "read" by a laser. The laser detects if there is a hole (or not) at every location. This is turned into a series of "1"s and "0"s that the computer then turns into sound and images.

Color representation of Graphics in computer

One of the common use of the hexadecimal number used in computer is the representation of colors. Each picture is represented by many small squares called pixels. Each pixel has a binary number (or corresponding hexadecimal numbers) associated with it to represent the numbers. The following is a picture of a smiley face represented by 81 pixels in black and white.



Since each pixel can be black or white, each pixel can be represented by 0 or 1 (black or white). Therefore, the whole picture can be represented by 81 one-digit binary number. In another word, this picture is 81 bit. The word “bit” comes from the term “binary digit”.

However, the pictures we have are not only in black and white. But to represent more colors, more binary digits are needed. To represent 4 colors, we need two bits for each pixel.

	Color	Color code
	Black	00
	Dark Grey	01
	Light Grey	10
	White	11

RGB Model used in Web Pages

The RGB color model is a color model in which red, green, and blue light are added together to reproduce many different colors. Television sets, computer and some mobile phone displays uses RGB model. Also, colors on web pages are also represented by the RGB model.

Under the RGB model, each color is defined by its mix of Red, Green and Blue, each of which can be in the range of 0 to 255 (decimal) or 00 to FF (hexadecimal). Because each of the three colors can have values from 0 to 255 (256 possible values), there are:

$$256 \times 256 \times 256 = 256^3 = 16,777,216 \text{ possible color combinations}$$

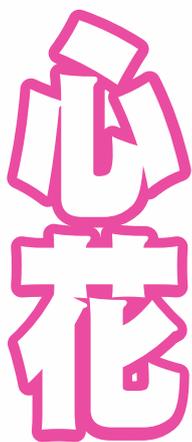
This is why you see some computer component says “16 Million Colors Display”.

Each color is then represents by a 6-digit hexadecimal number. First two digits represent the “amount” of red and middle two digits represent the “amount” of green. The last two digits represent the “amount” of blue. To represent red, the hexadecimal number FF0000 is used.

Here are some common colors used in web pages.

Color	Decimal (Red, Green, Blue)	Hexadecimal (#RRGGBB)
Black	(0, 0, 0)	#000000
White	(255, 255, 255)	#FFFFFF
Red	(255, 0, 0)	#FF0000
Green	(0, 255, 0)	#00FF00
Blue	(0, 0, 255)	#0000FF
Yellow	(255, 255, 0)	#FFFF00
Cyan	(0, 255, 255)	#00FFFF
Violet	(255, 0, 255)	#FF00FF

If you are interested to know more about the RGB model and hexadecimal number system, you can go to <http://www.mathsisfun.com/hexadecimal-decimal-colors.html> and check out the color mixer.



額角的一點冰涼
水
看看
數萬顆從上空往下墜
看不透來自哪裏 高深的雲
幾點落在我裸露的手臂上
沉重的、冰涼的、孤單的

雨傘紛紛撐起
像在逃避
我還是站著
在原地站著
享受這份冰涼

沉了，密了
快速地墜落
狠狠地打在我身上
冰冷且刺痛
無奈瑟縮於一角
有蓋的一角
看著它們打進水窪裏
綻放出無數針刺的花
冰冷的花
撐起的傘變成花瓣
綻放他的憐憫
我走進傘裏
逃避
為了溫暖而逃避
溫暖的
心花——

參考書目：

1. 《無父無夫的國度——重女不輕男的母系摩梭》
周華山著
香港同志研究社
2. 《中國少數民族婚喪風俗》
嚴汝嫻、劉宇著
台灣商務印書館
3. 《中國少數民族》
蘭佩瑾編
和平圖書有限公司

參考網址：

1. <http://www.backpackers.com.tw/forum/showthread.php?t=539277>
2. <http://blog.udn.com/kalaok/5147693>

特別鳴謝：

翁志明老師接受訪問及提供照片
校友龐凱峰繪畫插圖

順誌中文部編輯名單

王希彤 5B
張曉敏 5D
蘇慧嘉 5D
陳卓瑩 4A
周敏怡 4A
譚旭龍 4A
李黛敏 4B

負責老師

林健霞老師
鄭佳晶老師

青春的細節

如果有人問我甚麼是青春，我會毫不猶豫的告訴他：「青春，就是那段甚麼都敢想敢做，可以大聲笑大聲哭放膽說愛的時光。」

青春，是一幅溫暖明媚的風景畫。也許時光流逝風光不再，但刻在腦海中的回憶，帶來的窩心感覺依舊。

有一次，我偷偷拿了媽媽一千塊，用來買偶像的唱片和周邊商品。她發現以後，狠狠的教訓了我一頓，我氣不過與她吵了一場，更憤而摔門而去。時值深夜，寒風颯颯，我剛出門便後悔了，只是倔強的脾氣撐著我不回頭。我躲到樓下遊樂設施架成的小空間裡，背靠著冷硬的塑膠板，試圖抓住一絲安全感。

突然，一把熟悉又陌生的聲音由遠及近傳來：「琪琪，你在哪？快回家吧！」印象中，從未見過媽媽如此慌亂……一聲聲呼喚敲進心房，眼淚不爭氣的簌簌而下。似乎是聽見了我低低的飲泣聲，她走到了我面前。其實，我也明白是自己有錯在先，但嘴巴開開合合，就是吐不出一句簡單的道歉。

媽媽溫柔的聲音自頭頂傳來：「對不起，我剛剛太激動了，回家吧！」沒想到她比我更先開口，明明就不是她的錯……淚水如開了水龍頭般愈流愈兇，止也止不住。媽媽拉起我的手，牽著我回家。冷冽的風迎面刮來，但暖意自手心流遍全身，擋開了絲絲寒流。

「媽，對不起。」

青春，是一支激昂的搖滾樂曲，縱然瘋狂，但我們共同敲出的節拍，往往重重的打進了心坎處。

還記得，我們在月圓之夜，一同踏單車到天亮。我們站在靜無一人的公路上，放聲喊出彼此的夢想，為寂靜的夜晚添上一抹喧鬧。即使筋疲力盡，臉上的笑容始終不減。

還記得，我們在鬼門大開之日相聚，一起看靈異電影聽恐怖故事。明明心裡都寒得發毛，雞皮疙瘩不住冒起，仍然扯起笑容逞強。最後，恐懼還是戰勝了面子，緊緊關好門窗，開動所有照明系統後，大家相依而眠，彼此傳遞的溫熱驅散了寒意。

還記得，我們在放假時去了露營，圍著營火，談理想、聊現在、盼未來……我們還在樹下埋下了時間囊，相約十年後重遊舊地，一同尋回大家的夢想與諾言。

「友誼萬歲！」

青春，是一首浪漫的情詩，年少時光雖然青澀，淡淡暖暖的愛依然時刻縈繞心頭。

當我們還是好朋友的時候，你讓我陪你買花，說要向心儀的女孩告白。捧著花走出花店，我問你要送給誰，你支吾了大半天，猛然說了一句：「送給你！」當時一下子愣住了不懂反應，只覺心中有一絲甜蜜裊裊升起。

曾經我們熬夜不睡，就為了跟對方多講幾句話。曾經我們可以甚麼都不做，只呆在一起聊聊天，就過了一整天。曾經我們即使不在一起，也會在同一時間聽同一首歌，同時按下播放鍵，就為了彼此能分享同樣的心情。

「你還記得嗎？」

青春，是一曲悠揚的G弦之歌，就算要獨自奮鬥，仍然能憑藉無比的熱情與堅毅走下去。

無數次，到了深夜才發現，該做的功課還未完成，該讀的書還未唸好。不想吵醒熟睡的家人，只好在角落亮著小燈，悄悄地埋頭苦幹。那時，只要有熟悉的旋律陪伴，就能在疲憊中找到力量。

無數次，承受著莫名的壓力，旁人都毫不理解。不想敗給怯懦的自己，只好硬著頭皮咬緊牙關闖過去了。每一次，我都會告訴自己不要害怕，只要敢做，就行。

「熱血，就是要灑在青春裡。」

初生之犢不畏虎。也許，我很囂張，我很衝動，我很倔強。但是，我很堅定，我很真誠，我很勇敢。這，就是青春的我。

「我或許再也看不到陽光，但我仍會感覺到它的溫暖，它的存在。」她是這樣說過的。這充滿生命力的一句話，改變了我對人生的一些看法。

從非洲回來後，跟秦醫生見了面，他又有奇怪的安排。

「你願意再跑步嗎？」

「跑？還行嗎？」連看人家快步行走我都心有戚戚然，還說自己跑？

「我打算為肢體殘障人士設計一些更有效更舒適的義肢或替代用品，需要實質的臨床體驗和使用者感受的回饋，包括截肢運動員的感受。」

「那為何要跑？能走便可以了。」

「能用來跑的，走便會更暢順了！」

「那……好，我願意嘗試。」我想起了嚮導的那一句話。

自此，我竟又跑起來了。

用真人測試新設計的義肢實在很笨，試驗者會起水疱兒，會發炎，甚至皮開肉綻，總會有更人道的辦法吧！我老是向秦醫生投訴，但看到新產品每每令病患更舒適，於是便作罷了。他的設計涵蓋甚廣，由一般用途的，以至運動員專用的，攀山涉水的，都為殘障者帶來了更多方便。

他不斷改良設計，我則一直作試驗。我仍然會痛，會受傷，但傷痛程度是一次比一次減輕了。藉著新的設計，我越跑越舒暢，也越跑越遠，馬拉松賽程也能重新攀上了。而事實上，我也參加過並完成了兩次「全馬」賽事。

那一年，秦醫生把非洲的嚮導帶來了。

「您的眼睛……」

「終於瞎了。」她淡然道，「我看不到陽光了，但仍能感受到它的溫暖呢！」

「哈！」我竟輕呼了一聲，但並非幸災樂禍，而是『感受』到她那一句話的深層意義。她也笑了。

「這次我前來是為了公益，要為我國失明兒童籌款。」

「噢！那……籌款方式是？」

「馬拉松長跑。我們非洲人都是能跑的啊！」她笑道。「想你幫忙。在非洲我帶你到處走，在這裡你領我跑步，可以嗎？」

就這樣我做了第一次的領跑員。

領跑過程並不容易，總是有小狀況出現的。她多次踹到我的後腿，或因速度太快而撞上我背部，還差點給絆倒了。步速不一致也使牽在中間的領跑帶備如拔河角力。默契隨著汗水而慢慢建立了，但最大問題是——痛！義肢與主幹的接觸面總是帶來麻煩，秦醫生得再加努力了。

這些年來，我領跑的次數算不清楚了。陪著一起跑過的失明夥伴，都懷著各自的抱負和願景，為自己的目標努力。在他們身上，我感受到陽光的溫暖，它漸漸把我從喪肢的噩夢中喚醒，讓我從脆弱中尋回自己。

我在賽場上曾碰上村上春樹，跟他寒暄過。他說：「你知道嗎，我的作品『關於跑步，我說的其實是……』中所提及的金剛腿跑手，就是您！靈感來自您。」

每次完成領跑後，主幹關節與義肢墊托的接觸部位都會有不同程度的不適，所以我都向秦怪醫投訴。他每次都為義肢作了改良，放在新的產品上，造福更多殘障人士。

「還會導致不適？好，有改良空間，下次會更好。」

「很辛苦呢！下次？大概不會再跑了。」我老是嘀咕著。

我生不出小孩，也不喝酒，但我跑……痛過後，我仍會跑。

第36屆全港青年學藝比賽 全港青年中文故事創作比賽2010-11高級組冠軍

梁易綸

創作時為中四戊班同學

領跑

有這樣的一個說法：產子姑娘醉酒漢。姑娘經歷分娩的痛楚後，都喊著說以後不再生小孩了；劉伶們好杯中物，經歷醉臥街頭的尷尬和宿醉後的頭痛欲裂，都誓言從此戒酒。但結果生的再生，喝的還是繼續喝，原因呢？自討苦吃、苦中尋樂、意志力薄弱、賤骨頭……都各自表述。

我生不出小孩，也不會喝酒，但我會跑，跑了又跑……

今天去了秦醫生的醫院，他為我的腿作了檢查，正確來說是鋼腿。

十年前的一個晚上，我慣常的一個人住在住處附近靜寂的行人道上跑步。這路線我實在熟悉不過，汗水都灑在地磚上七、八年了，可是它並沒有因此特別眷顧我，反而讓我在它的地頭受創。一個不負責任的醉酒駕駛者賠上了自己的性命不夠，還要了我的一條小腿陪葬。

秦醫生是外科矯型專家，卻有點不務正業。他也愛長跑，於是便『跑』到老遠的非洲去臨床研究巫學心理學，去做義工，恰巧也姓秦，有點像漫畫書裡的『怪醫秦博士』。這十年來秦醫生為我換上了大概四十支義肢。從起初像石頭般笨重的義肢，不透氣的材料，到現在的輕盈鈦合金，還有特別功能的，都由秦醫生一手包辦。他義務為我不斷設計先進義肢，除了幫我站得更穩，更期望拋磚引玉，要我跑……

「這小鋼腿用新的合金造成，回彈力較強，跑起來會較穩定。還可以吧？」

說是小腿，不過是一支裝有墊托的乙型金屬條罷了。

「嗯！的確如此，而且還不會脫落。不過接觸面還是很粗糙，會叫人不舒服，尤其當混入汗水磨擦時，準會隆起水疱兒，會痛。」

「知道了，太光滑也不行，推力會不足。這次我會為你換上新研發的軟墊，新物料既能分散磨擦力，排汗功能會更佳。」

「希望如此，我怕痛。」

「下星期要跑了，『全馬』吧？」

「嗯。夥伴來自智利。」

「那好，加油啊，金剛腿！賽後回來作檢查。」

截肢手術難受，康復過程也難受，物理治療更難受，但都只不過是重複嬰兒成長的過程：從趴到爬，從爬到站，從站到走……僅此罷了，我受得了。但人總是遺反不了佛洛伊德的定論，人是會做夢的，而我做的是噩夢。隨著肢體莫名其妙的失去，噩夢悠然而生，理所當然得無法避免。上天愛作弄人，你愛跑？它偏不讓你跑。你有方興未艾的活力去跑馬拉松？它偏要淹滅你的意志。噩夢的纏繞讓我沉淪。

意外後兩年，我花了些保險賠償金去國外旅行，不，帶著噩夢不叫旅行，是流浪。秦醫生一直是我的主診醫生，懂我情況，認為我的狀態可以到較遠的地方，建議我到西非的莫桑比克走走，還硬推了他當地的一位友人作我嚮導。

見面才知這位嚮導是弱視的，她僅剩兩成視力，而且情況還在惡化。由一位嚴重弱視的音樂老師帶著一個肢體殘缺的前運動員，這安排很奇妙。她性格很開朗，臉上總帶著陽光般的笑容。當然了，那兒是非洲，陽光是必然的。除了大自然景象，她帶我看了當地人的生活。與其說是看，不如說她是帶我去感受。

「這兒的學生是這樣學習的，你感受到嗎？」「玉米餅是這個樣的，你感受到了吧！」「你嗅到玉米香了吧！」

她大概知道自己視力會漸漸喪失，所以意識上會用「感受」去代替「看」。

冷知識：

「男兒國」——阿索斯山

「女兒國」可算是眾所周知，可是你對「男兒國」又曾否略有所聞？

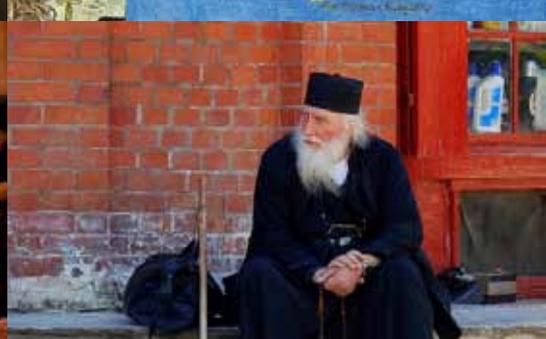
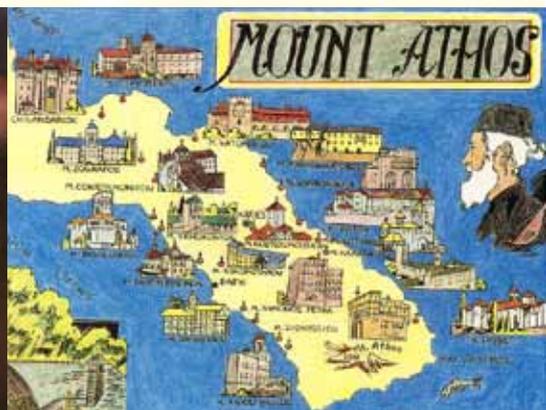
阿索斯山，全稱「阿索斯山自治修道院州」，又稱「聖山」，位於希臘的海拔八百呎高的愛琴海斷崖上，直轄於東正教的修道院。那兒只有潔淨的臥室、素食、清水和果子酒等。當地沒有電視、電腦和報紙，電子產品則只有罕見的電話，可謂與世隔絕。從旭日初昇至日落西山，修士們無間斷地頌禱唸經、冥想默禱，生活樸實安穩。

聖山修士每天過著「斯巴達式」生活，他們努力自給自足，毫無雜念，心無旁騖，因而健康得很，癌症患病率極低，甚至沒有心臟病或老人癡呆症患者。修士們活著只為了接近耶穌基督。他們均熱愛死亡、擁抱死亡，無時無刻皆準備展開天堂之旅。

聖山，除了因自拜占庭時期以來該地一直不變的東正教生活而受世界各地的信徒久仰外，當地只允許男性進入的條例更是舉世聞名。追溯至西元1060年，該地法例已列明禁止女性入山，甚至連雌性的家畜亦

然（貓和母雞除外，因為貓能捉鼠，母雞能下蛋以供繪畫彩蛋之用）根據當地的東正教教義，耶穌基督把半島獻給聖母瑪利亞，其他女性一概隔絕，以顯示對其母親的尊重。

這蒙上神秘面紗的國度使古今女子朝思暮想，希望能闖進聖山，一睹其景。不久前，美國交流學者柯拉米勒在薩洛尼卡附近一所學校擔任政學教師。一天清晨，她駕駛一艘船到聖山腳下。上岸後，她在海灘散步。正當她縱情於欣賞大自然的傑作的時候，她不幸被發現了。當地的宗教法庭被這種嚴重違法行為惹怒了，米勒被綁起來痛打十六下。雖然如此，連皇族的家首也不怕危險躍躍欲試。前羅馬尼亞皇后瑪麗曾喬裝男士入山，但最終依然被警衛逮獲遣返。喬裝事件屢見不鮮，修士因此加強防範，現在若要通過聖山，必須先接受「入境檢查」。所有入境人士進山前必先除下褲子檢驗其性別，方可進入。如果你是男性，請注意！阿索斯山自治修道院州定會袒露胸懷迎接你的到來，但必須謹記，在入境前脫掉你的褲子啊！



挑選「當家」的原則

在摩梭這個母系社會中，達布(當家)一定是由女人或舅舅擔任，而當家人是集體決定的，過程非常民主，不會出現如「宮心計」般的奪權情節。「漫長」、「自然」、「民主」是選出當家的最主要特點。「漫長」是由於挑選的過程會歷時數十年，從耕作能力、人際關係的處理、理財之道等挑選出最適合的當家。「自然」是因為所有爭議都會在早晚的聚會中處理、調和、轉化。經過數十年的觀察，最終由哪位有能者出任當家其實已經是不言而喻，摩梭家族最重視的就是家庭和睦，所以爭權、勾心鬥角等事情很少出現在她們的族群中。而且摩梭族的男人亦非常支持女人當家，他們認為女人比起男人更會理財。有的家族全家只有一個銀行戶口，她們之間從不過問戶口內金錢的提取。事實上，摩梭族人堅持集體分享的原則，她們沒有任何私有的東西，他們的東西不論男女老幼都會互相分享。



母屋建築與座位的安排



母屋，又稱作祖母房或正房，是每個摩梭人舉行重要禮儀的所在地，也是所有家庭活動的主要場所。因此，修建母屋時，必須經過一系列複雜的儀式，比如是占卜吉日、祈福等。

母屋頂部相當低，門檻特別高，使人必須低頭鞠躬才能進入，充分體現出摩梭人對母屋的尊崇。而母屋內的上方為鍋莊和火塘。火塘上方是「冉巴拉」，即火神與灶神。灶神像前放有凹頂型鍋莊石，用作祭供食品。

而火塘下方的兩根柱子，亦即是男柱和女柱，均凝聚著豐富的文化意義。

男柱、女柱和它們頂上的橫樑與頂柱，必須取自同一棵樹。那必須是長在向陽坡上，茂盛茁壯的參天古樹。它象徵著女性為家族的根源，同時也表示男女互補互助、同根同生，缺一不可。

與此同時，來自古樹的男女柱更表示母屋以至兩性的生命皆源於大自然，反映人與大自然共為一體的宇宙觀。摩梭族人認為一切萬物皆有靈魂，大自然是神聖不可侵犯的。故此，幼樹、古樹、一切茂盛的大樹都只能待他們枯萎或禿謝之際才可砍伐。

母屋火塘前的座位也是依從著以女性為中心兼男女互補的性別模式排列。火塘座位嚴格按照輩份分配，不得胡亂就坐。一般老祖母和老舅舅會分別坐在火塘的右和左上方，其餘長者坐上方、幼者坐下方。除非來者是尊貴客人、長輩、喇嘛或殘疾人士，並且是由主人主動讓位，否則絕不能坐上祖母或舅舅這兩個位置。

「知父不親父」 摩梭族中父親的角色

有沒有想過，在世界上竟有一個「知其母、不知其父」的民族存在？屬於母系社會的摩梭族便是當中的顯例。由於子女出生後會在母親家中成長，因此父親在家庭中的角色跟現代社會極為不同。

在摩梭族內，即使子女知道生父是誰，也甚少主動問好。子女跟父親之間像是毫無關係。這與現代社會上父親對我們影響甚大，身為兒女的我們必須恭敬地對待父親有著極大的差異。從摩梭族的文化中可見，父親在家庭的地位低微。那是因為子女在出生後會一直跟隨母親生活，所以與父親漸生隔閡，甚至形同陌路。

另外，摩梭族中父親對子女並沒有撫養及管治權。這令摩梭人認為誰是生父、與生父關係是否親密等毫不重要。因此摩梭族中父親的角色模糊，當地社會也不太重視父親的地位。

舅舅與父親的角色分別

摩梭族用語中的「阿達」和「阿博」都是對父親的直接稱謂。然而大部分摩梭人會稱父親為「阿烏」，即漢語中的舅舅。為什麼呢？答案在於該族的走婚文化。由於摩梭族內沒有明確的婚姻約束，因此一名女性可與多於一名的男性走婚，生下數名孩子。而摩梭人把父親全部稱為阿烏，就是為了消除子女之間因同母異父而產生的競爭和異心。

而且，在摩梭的母系文化中，男性最高級的地位不是父親，而是舅舅。舅舅可以斥責自己的侄兒而生父不能干預。可見，只有成為阿烏，男性的地位便會受到公認。因此作為父親，地位絕不如舅舅崇高。

四禮必見父

不過在一些傳統的摩梭禮儀上，父親還是扮演著不可或缺的角色。

首先是子女的成年禮。摩梭人一般在成年禮前已得知自己生父，因此說這個禮儀是為了認父，未免過於偏頗。摩梭人在母系家中完成了儀式後，便需要馬上前往父親家中進行「敬鍋莊」，從而顯示父親是子女在母系家族以外最親的人。

第二則是春節。子女除了需要到母系家屋拜年外，也需要到父親家中拜年。子女往往會帶同豬膘肉、茶葉、煙、酒等禮物到父親家中，先到經堂，再拜火塘。由此可見父親在家族中也有一定的角色。

第三種場合是子女的滿月酒。滿月酒在沒有一紙婚書的摩梭族中可謂夫妻間的婚姻證明。這場喜事由男方籌辦，而且在以後每年春節中，父親須送禮物給孩子及加以探望，否則會被認為是沒良心的表現。另外，滿月酒也是正式確認父親的場合。父親在滿月酒中扮演重要的角色，展現了摩梭人並非完全輕視父親的一面。

第四是葬禮。在摩梭傳統中，子女須要在父親病重時經常探望，以表孝心。而摩梭父親的葬禮中也會由子女作代表，並負責葬禮的部分開支。

活在母系社會，摩梭族堅持子女由母親及其家族養大，家族一切事務皆以母親為軸心。然而，摩梭族並非無視父親對子女的重要性及角色。雖然這跟我們身處的社會迥然不同，但無疑帶出了「子女不能忘記父母對自己的愛護」這個永恆的道理。



「走婚」的婚姻模式

傳統摩梭族最大的特色，莫過於婚姻模式上的「走婚」。「走婚」是指一對男女情投意合，男孩會到女生的「走婚房」過夜，要是雙方不再情投意合，大家便會和平分手，誰都不會埋怨對方。「走婚伴侶」不會同住或組織家庭，所以在經濟、居住、教育下一代和工作上也是獨立的。一般主流社會的人會認為「走婚」是一件隨心而為、百無禁忌的事。事實剛好相反，「摩梭走婚」卻有著清晰的規矩：

- (1) 走婚男女通常在平日勞動或節日中認識而日久生情。
- (2) 男子在走婚前需要到女方火塘敬鍋莊，通常會請男媒人到女方家屋向阿咪(即母親)示好，阿咪一般不會反對。
- (3) 孩子出生後，必須擺滿月酒把走婚關係公開，讓村民與親友祝賀孩子誕生。自此，走婚男子不必夜出早歸，男子白天可以在女方家幫忙，通常晚飯後便到女方火塘聊天。
- (4) 滿月酒後，男女家屋便成親戚，誰家有事都去幫忙，不分彼此；摩梭諺語謂：「男人不容易，要照顧兩個家」。
- (5) 孩子從出生、成年禮、每年春節到父親逝世，都有父子間的互相責任。
- (6) 摩梭走婚關係被中國政府與法律所承認，屬於「事實婚姻」。喝過了結婚喜酒，走婚伴侶可算是結婚了。

摩梭人以感情來聯繫彼此的關係，男女雙方沒有感情了，便靜悄悄地分開，從不會責怪對方，摩梭女性會認為「天下男人多的是，為什麼要作賤自己？」感情的自由自在，令傳統摩梭人不會挖空心思去追求對方，開展關係後也不會千方百計去獨佔對方，萬一分手也不會懷恨在心，更不會把責任歸咎「情敵」而興起「報復」甚至「情殺」念頭。正因如此，她們大多能輕鬆自在享受及發展關係，沒有太大的精神壓力。

摩梭的詞彙裡沒有「獨佔」、「妒忌」或「吃醋」，真要表示「妒忌」只能說：「lu mi gru」，即「傷心」的意思。以「傷心」來消解、抒發妒忌，正是傳統摩梭人對愛侶移情別戀的態度。摩梭女性不會獨佔一個男性，即使他與其他女子暗地走婚也不會介意。「我愛的是他，他與別人的關係，是他的事，我不管……他既英俊，又能幹，那麼多女孩喜歡他也很正常。強迫他一生只喜歡一個人不公平呢！」他們認為感情關係根本不在乎時間的長與短、數量的多與少，而是純粹看雙方感情的內涵與意願。由此可見，摩梭的婚姻觀念與主流社會的「一夫一妻」及「從一而終」的感情觀念有很大的差異。



摩梭族人的生死觀： 女本男末

對於摩梭族的生死觀，可以說得言簡意賅：出生是女人的事，男人靠邊；死亡是男人的事，女人靠邊。摩梭人視生死為流轉輪迴不息的過程，因此「女本男末」絕非是兩極對立，而是相互協調補足的。

先言出生。摩梭人相當重視嬰兒誕生，故此孕婦可謂極受厚待，一來不必砍柴負重物，二來有姐妹們負責照料，可見嬰兒誕生的重要。而且生育與生命被視為女人事，從懷孕到擺滿月酒都沒有男人的份兒。例如說：在生育分娩時，丈夫、父親或舅舅不能幫忙；坐月期間，男人禁止吃產婦的食物，古老的禁忌認為破戒的男人會嘴唇生瘡、騎馬會打瞌睡、打槍會打歪、耕作會失收。

在嬰孩出生後的第七天要曬太陽（有些村寨是第三天），由祖母帶母子到屋外，坐在乾淨的墊毯上曬太陽，並用溫水給孩子洗澡。在摩梭文化裏，太陽屬女性，代表溫暖與關懷，這與主流社會視太陽為「陽剛」、「暴烈」的代表截然相反。另外，嬰兒的滿月甜酒只容許婦女參加，就算是孩子的父親也不必親赴女家。當中的原因異常重要：婦女才是家屋的根本、生命的根源，雖然沒有父親就沒有孩子，但從文化層面看來，孩子出生象徵母系家屋的延續，因此關鍵人物是母親和她的姐妹，不是父親或者丈夫。

死亡卻正好相反，完全是男人的事。整個葬禮由籌辦到執行，盡是清一色男班負責。這並非因為摩梭族把女人視作不潔與低下，而是因為「女人」既然和「生命」相連，就必須盡量遠離與「死亡」相關的事宜。摩梭男人一般會包辦如下的事務：當人氣絕而亡後，家人便會向村鄰報喪，村人必須每戶派一名男人來幫忙，他們會議論喪事的規模及款客禮儀、分工的安排；火葬前一天由家族男成員把屍體從後室挖出來，然後把棺木放在平日也只讓男人坐的火塘，整個過程不容女人觀看。

摩梭嬰孩出生時由婦女洗身，死時由男人清洗乾淨。女性誕下新生命，男性護送亡者返回祖先地，一絲不苟地展示出女本男末之兩性和諧互補。



兩個相愛的人在一起是十分簡單的事

翁老師曾說過自己不會結婚。

「但我不是個反對婚姻的人。婚姻是一個幸福的承諾，但現實中香港和內地的離婚率高企，能有多少對夫妻可以真正白頭到老？沒有離婚就代表婚姻美滿幸福嗎？」

在摩梭族裡，族人的婚姻愛情觀並不牽涉金錢、利益。他們認為當兩人感情轉淡時，佔有對方是不公平的，感情不投放在你身上，留住對方也沒用。

「我選擇不結婚是因為我享受現在的狀態。」

此外，翁老師還補充：「摩梭人沒有『處女』這個概念。女性在母系社會中沒有害怕失身的壓力，當然也不代表她們可以很隨便和別人發生關係。只是在母系社會中，大家不會有太多考慮，相處就是簡簡單單。雖說是母系社會，以女性為軸心，但亦『重女不輕男』。相反在父系社會裡，以男性為主，女性受着許多的規範和壓逼，要求女性依從男性，這有什麼好？」

在這趟女兒國之旅，你有什麼得着？

「摩梭族人令我明白：兩個相愛的人在一起是十分簡單的事。有時候，婚姻只會在兩人關係中加上許多感情外的元素，比如是經濟上的依附和婆媳關係。我不想身邊多了一些不明的關係，而且兩人相愛就足夠了，所以婚姻對我來說不是最重要。你可能不同意我的說法，但我也沒有強逼任何人依從我的想法，大家只是作思想上的交流而已。」

假如讓你選擇生活在以其中一個性別為主的社會，你會選哪邊？

「在香港生活，我根本沒有選擇。倘若是『假如』的話，我想感受一下母系社會的大家庭式生活。畢竟傳統的大家庭生活模式在現代社會已淡化了不少，現代流行核心家庭，子女婚後大多與家人分開居住，過分依賴夫妻二人的親密關係來提供情感支援，家人之間的關係則日漸疏離，家庭的互動和其所提供的功能也就少之有少。」

回想一下，忙碌的學習和工作都令我們麻木了。相比雲南的摩梭族人，我們有較富裕的物質供應，但精神支援卻嚴重缺乏。

摩梭姑娘曾說：「人要記住把心打開才行。」香港人到底是不是幸福的一群？



能說說從摩梭族看到的母系社會的特色嗎？

「摩梭族是一個母系社會。在母系社會，通常由年紀最老的女性作為一家之主，族人之間的男女愛情不是最重要的，反而他們會把感情放在自己所屬的大家庭上。在一個家庭裡，女的全都是『阿咪』（即母親），男的是舅舅（即舅父）同時亦等同於家庭中父親的角色。在母系社會中成長的孩子，家裡有着許多母親和父親，因此孩子能從中得到許多的愛與照顧。」

既然如此，母系社會裡便不存在父系家庭明確的角色分配嗎？

「在一定程度上，在母系社會，每一個家庭成員也有其家庭責任，只是沒有父系社會那種十分明確的角色分配，不會有像父系家庭般複雜的親戚關係，例如什麼表姐、表叔公、堂兄等等。」

那麼，母系社會屬於怎樣的家庭模式呢？

「它是一種大家庭的模式，家人之間的聯繫十分緊密，他們沒有強烈的個人主義，也不在意私人的空間。母系社會的家庭文化是一輩子和家人相處，提供了強大的情感支援。因此在摩梭族裡沒有人患情緒病，聽說也沒有人自殺，所以他們連『自殺』一詞解作什麼也不懂，很奇怪吧！」

享受旅程

翁老師笑道：「我記得當我第二次去的時候遇到一對男女，他們從麗江徒步走了七天才到達落水村，而我則乘車，只花了五個小時便來到這裡。」每個旅者都有其獨特的旅行方式，但萬變不離其宗，只要自己享受過程就行了。

此外，翁老師亦提到在走入山區的途中遇見一位女士。

「那位女士姓劉，是四川人，跑到這裡來當義務教師。後來，她還帶我去她任教的學校參觀。那是一所名叫『溫泉完小』的小學，因為學校旁邊有個溫泉澡堂，所以叫『溫泉完小』，多有趣的名字。」

說畢，他又把那本書翻後了幾頁，指着一幅摩梭族的小女孩的圖片說：「這個女孩叫次茸祝瑪。我竟然會在『溫泉完小』裡碰見她。」究竟翁老師是否早已計劃拿着那本書，遠道而至，尋覓相中人？我忽然生起這個浪漫的念頭。在旅途中，一切未知之數都為旅程增添更多的趣味。

翁老師有否執鞭義教？

「來到『溫泉完小』，在那裡住了數晚。有一個晚上，我拿起一本有關天文學的書，和二十來個寄宿的小學生躺在地上仰望星空。在那裡，我可以望見天上的銀河，它是灰濛濛的。接着，我教他們如何辨認星座。」

後來那些小學生在翁老師面前很快樂、很有感情地唱出屬於他們各自的民族歌曲。

「當時的我在想：我應該唱什麼歌來代表屬於自己的地方呢？難道唱香港的流行曲？到底香港人屬於什麼？」

父母常說子女不珍惜讀書的機會，人家山區兒童對讀書珍而重之，常常勤奮地苦讀。對此論調，身為教育工作者的翁老師有截然不同的理解：「無意讀書又如何好好珍惜？別看山區兒童好像很用功讀書，有的孩子寧可去勞動也不想去讀書呢！這對我的教育觀有很大的啟示：讀書是快樂的，但學生要有當中找到樂趣才會讀。」我使勁地點頭。

旅者百般滋味在心頭

「我零九年再去的時候，湖畔的旅遊區多了一些外來人開旅館。當地的人依然穿着他們的民族服裝，但整個地方變得很商業化。旅客前來觀光，這裡每晚都為遊人舉行篝火晚會。以往熱情、純樸的族人漸漸被那些遊人、城市人教曉：『應該收酬金』的道理。」

本來一心好客的族人變得不再只為好客而好客，卻是為金錢而好客。發展旅遊區的確讓旅遊區內的當地人及其他外來商人富起來，但偏遠山區的人民依然十分窮困，這是很悲哀的。雲南的瀘沽湖畔的摩梭村落是中國最後一個母系社會，但隨着旅遊區的發展，當地母系社會的文化承傳受着外來文化的衝擊。

與翁志明老師對談

在中國名著《西遊記》中所描繪的女兒國，是一個沒有男子的國度，女子想有孩子就得喝子母河的河水，才能如願以償。我們對現實中的女兒國的認識，只有透過書本、電視或網站片面的介紹，確實難以揭開這新娘子的神秘面紗。

翁志明老師一於順利天主教中學任教經濟科，身材高大，頭上總裹着與當天的衣物色調相襯的頭巾，喜愛談天，同時亦喜愛四出旅遊。這趟女兒國之旅，就讓翁老師帶領我們一起用心感受吧！

尋幽探秘

為何會到女兒國旅行？

「女兒國，一聽名字就想像到那裡全都是女性。我先後到訪過三次，第一次在二零零一年，女兒國在當時算不上是個知名的旅遊景區，人們對此地的認識很少，是個神秘之地。那趟旅行算是尋幽探秘吧！我趁著當年的人口普查假期，便帶着以前的大學老師周華山博士所寫的一本有關於雲南女兒國的書，收拾行裝，揸起背包，開始一個人的女兒國之旅。」

十一年前，翁老師從昆明乘飛機到雲南麗江，再花八至十個小時的車程到達位於雲南與四川交界的瀘沽湖。現在由麗江到瀘沽湖只需五個小時，比從前縮短了約一半的時間。

為什麼選擇一個人旅行？

「和旅伴一起旅遊觀光比較難體驗當地文化。一般遊人只是來拍拍照，在瀘沽湖畔的民宿住上一兩天便離開，很少和當地人交流。一個人旅行，我便可以逗留數個星期，體驗當地人的生活。」

快樂的摩梭人

當地的摩梭人大部分都懂普通話，所以只要旅者能說普通話，彼此的溝通也沒有什麼大問題。

翁老師細心地翻閱先前提及的那本有關雲南女兒國的書，說道：「書中提及的落水村我亦曾去過。第一到當地入住民宿的時候，我被安排住在面向瀘沽湖的房間，景色十分美麗。到我第二度光臨時，民宿的主人已把我當成朋友，因此我就如古時的食客一樣，在主人的府中作客時亦要幫忙處理民宿事務。」

在那裡，翁老師難得地體驗到客人和服務生身份重疊的滋味。旅行就是這樣子，往往有著令人意想不到的驚喜。

「我在民宿住了幾天後便出發往山區更深處去！途中我遇見一個摩梭族男人，我們沿路談天。後來，那男子邀請我到他家作客。雖然我們只是萍水相逢，但當地的人表現得很熱情、好客，他們的行為不是為了報酬，而是純粹發自真心。」翁老師笑着說。

摩梭族人的「走婚」制度在外人眼中被視為等同於西方的一夜情，但翁老師卻認為兩者截然不同。在翁老師眼中的摩梭人又是怎樣的呢？

「根據周博士記載一位摩梭族女人的說話：『走婚跟結婚一樣是不可以亂來的，只是我們不依靠一張紙，不一起居住，而以道德、良心、家族名譽來約束。』所以摩梭族的『走婚』不是『一夜情』。而且摩梭人十分尊重長輩，所以男方在進行走婚時會在天光前離開女方家，以免打擾女方家的長輩。此外，其實摩梭人對『性』並不開放，相反他們視有關『性』的言語為禁忌的一種。當一談到有關性的時候，摩梭族女性會顯得十分尷尬和害羞。即使是摩梭族男人偶爾說一些帶有性意味的髒話，其意思也非常隱晦，外人基本上無法聯想得到。」

從翁老師口中所知的摩梭族，顯然是一個心地純良的母系民族。我立刻聯想到一位摩梭姑娘正低眉垂眼，表現害羞的樣子。

順誌

第八期
二零一二年

尋幽探秘——

女兒國

