

U for “Utilize our gift?”

*For some reason, ping pong came very natural to me. So I started playing it all the time. The hospital's people said it made me look like a duck in water ... whatever that means.
~ By Forrest Gump¹ - 1994 Movie*



Either swim or sink??

從那份沒有被錄用的工作上，我的感悟.....？

I'm a 2 x 20s' somethings (but with a youthful attitude to life!!) went out competed with the 20s' somethings...

What have I realized from the job I didn't get hired?

¹ FORREST GUMP - 1994

Directed by Robert Zemeckis

Written by Winston Groom

Starring Tom Hanks

Produced by Wendy Fineman, Steve Tisch, Steve Starkey

Distributed by Paramount Pictures

當收到那封 “*We regret... Wish you every success in the future*” 的電郵之時～我完全被呆着了！一時之間自信心墜到谷底，亦使得我有一種背後刺箭，鏃羽而回，大為不爽的感覺！

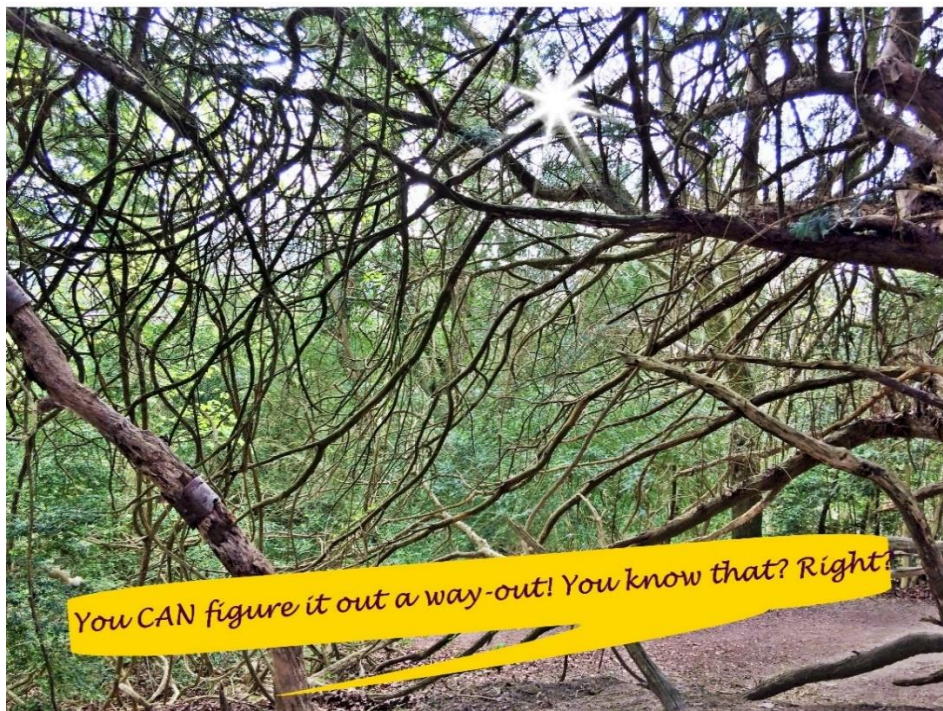
天啊！還以為自己在那次面試中表現得很出色！究竟什麼地方出錯了呢？我不斷問自己？

尤其，我是這種總愛傾向將自己的失敗放大的人，我迅速，毫不留情地作出結論：我不夠好、我能力不足、我沒有資格足以勝任這份工作……

It was a crushing blow to me when I received that ~
“*We regret... Wish you every success in the future*” email from that job I thought the interview went so well, so perfectly!

“What went wrong? What exactly happened? What could I have said differently?” Negative thoughts began to go through my head and I was floored.

As we always tend to magnify our failure, not surprised ‘the negative me’ quickly rushed to the conclusions: I’m not good enough and inadequate, I wasn’t qualified to the job…



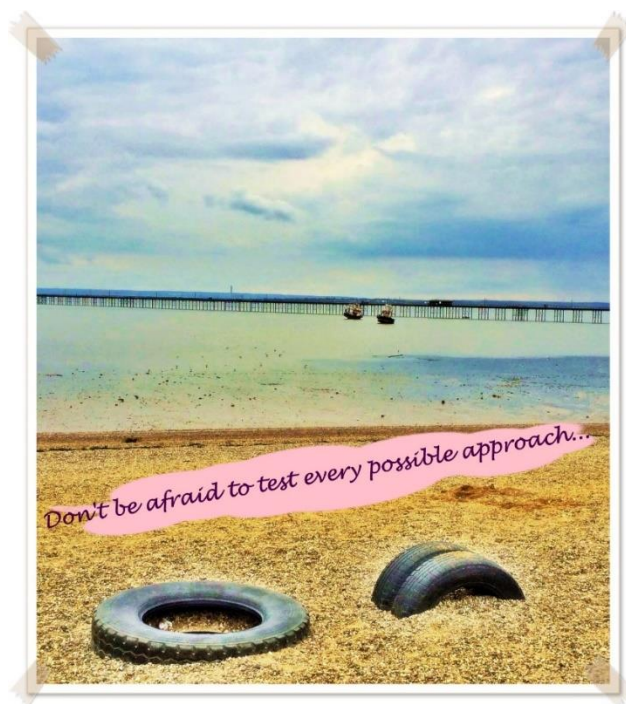
(英倫, Surrey Hills AONB, Surrey)

可是，真正令我最不安的～倒是顧慮（就業年齡歧視）會否是與「我的年齡」有關？確實啫！畢竟，今天我是個 2 x 20s（但身心年輕！哈!🐱），去跟那些 20s 的青春少艾，來比對競爭的中年大嬸！好明顯，我永不會知背後的真相..... 正因為如此，我對這個世界的信心幾乎完全被扭曲。

而另一個可悲的事實是，我從起初就意識到，自己根本不喜歡那份工作，只是老活想著跳槽，欲速逃脫目前這份無可救藥的「雞肋」工作，所以純然出於絕望的心態，去胡亂找，準備接受任何可以找得上的工作。

Or at worst, puzzled was it my 'AGE' letting me down?
I'm a 2 x 20s' somethings (but with a youthful attitude to life!!) went out competed with the 20s' somethings! Obviously, I may never know the REAL reasons why I didn't land the job, I was deeply demoralizing.

The sad truth is, I knew the role wasn't in line with my interests. Clearly, I hadn't focus on what I DO WANT and didn't take action based on what I truly love on this occasion! On the contrary, I was just made some muddle-headed decisions purely based upon great desperation and not giving much thought to it! Hastily wanting to ditch my dead-end job.



(Southend on Sea, Essex, England)

正當，我感到困在被動挨打的悶地，發傻之際，卻令我轉念想到：雖然，此刻我被拒絕了，但這次的「落空」，并非絕對是代表負面的嘍？

倘若，我能退後一步，嘗試從另一端鑽出來想想，有時，事情進行得不順利，往往都可能隱藏著一次「塞翁失馬」的機玄，不是嗎？

While I'm down in the dumps by the rejections it has triggered me to rethinking:

Perhaps, the 'dejected setbacks' ~ in itself, isn't necessary a negative thing. If only I can take a step back and see through it... right?

"There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so" ~ Hamlet, Shakespeare

莎士比亞在《哈姆雷特》所言：「事無好壞，想法使然。」



(英格蘭，肯特郡，多佛白崖 / White Cliffs of Dove, Kent, England)

首先，姑且允許我，在此大膽作出振奮人心（呀..... 似乎！）的想法～

建議我們何不坦誠地問問自己？真正想做的是什麼？愛好什麼？又希望從生命中獲得什麼？（而不是單專注求職公司要什麼？）

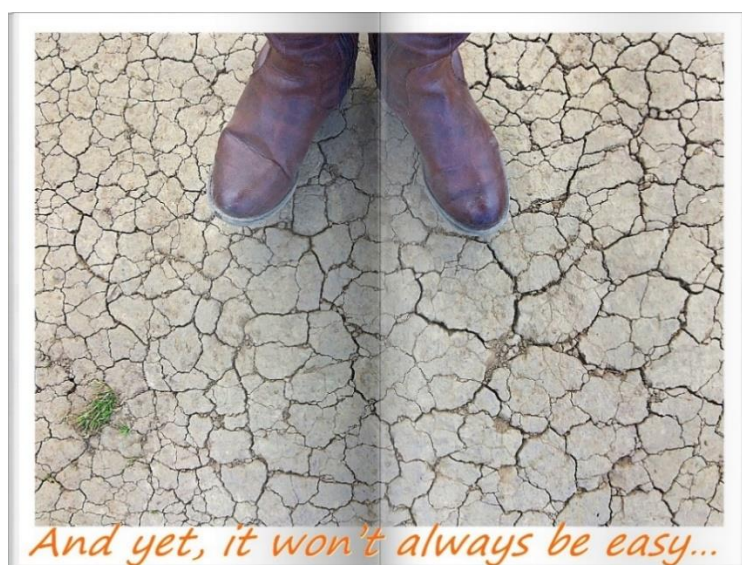
換句話說，應找出、確定、認識（但這是另一個話題，留待將來有機會再談。）和珍視一己實在的「強項和志趣」，併竭盡所能，去拓展自己天賦潛能。簡單來說，**只對自己感熱情的當一回事！**因這是人生最大的幸福。相反，而不是蒙上眼睛，虛度我們寶貴的數月，去幹不合適自己，甚至背道而馳的工作。

跟隨我們的心，追隨夢想，嘿！當然聽來好吸引，誰不會動心呢？

Well, yeah! To begin with, allowing me to propose an uplifting thought here. So let reflect and be frank to ask THE question: what I'm truly looking for? (Not just what the other company is looking for?).

In other words, define (but that is another subject) and turn inwards to our core genius, natural gift and passion (whatever you want to call it!) as '*they are matter the most*' rather than being blindfolded going down to some random mismatch jobs that could cost us years of precious time!

Sound like a good plan? Right? Indeed, I would love to orient my mind set and follow my bliss...



哦！問題是：

在今天的經濟不太景氣中，相信對於有養家負擔、或有經濟壓力的大多數小草民，儘管，幹着一份全職工作，亦絕非等同是賺取着「生活工資 / Living wages」。就以我現任的爛工作為例，曾已屢次被雇主（不良！☹）不合理地削減我們的工時！最終，依然不足夠來支付基本生活上的所有開支。

這更不可不提，于近年來的就業市場，競爭力日趨激烈之下，求職獵戰毫無疑問像是，狂風暴雨、千山萬水、精疲力竭、流血破皮（哇哇哇.....），甚容易令人越找越氣餒。故此，要想找合適又理想的工作，實是可遇不可求。

那麼，是絕對可以理解，當你仍需要為五斗米折腰的情況下，為了生存，的確會不禁感覺到身不由己，及難於認真地對待自己的熱情。而到最後，也許更要無何奈何的暫且去壓抑，或耽誤我們內心的志向。

But wait, that is a problem here:

What if you financially struggle and barely making ends meet? Especially in today economic recession, most jobs won't offer you a pay check that is a living wage. And regardless of whether you have a full time job (where my current employer shuffle your shifts from week to week - welcome to my reality!), many of us won't be earning enough to pay all the bills.

That is not to say, in the realm of reality of job hunting, the process can be physically & emotionally exhausting and frustrating! No doubt, job market is getting more competitive these days.

Thereby, it's understandable, we might because of the financial and social pressures and not able to take our passion seriously. These pressures reduce and distracts us from pursuing and create the life we verily want to live. Like so, settle for any shitty job we can find to survive!

唔..... 應該怎麼辦呢？

Well, if you ask me to going back to the question: What would you do?



(英格蘭，肯特郡，多佛白崖 / White Cliffs of Dove, Kent, England)

說句實話，此刻，我尚沒有任何的破解線索？
或許，往往在人生各種各樣的難題上，有時，真難以找到一個簡單又直接的解決方案。

雖然這樣，我卻常聽到以下的格言～
“Do what you love... everything else will come.”

若依據它所言，似乎捍衛發揮自己的「天賦」，做自己喜歡、想做的事，你會活得更快樂，也是福澤人生的重要組成部分。噢！如此一來，這理應不容漠視？

Well, at this very moment, I honestly don't have any answers! In fact, there isn't a simple, easy way to find a quick-fix method for our life tough circumstances in most cases I guess.

In spite of that, one of the most popular advice we hear all of the time～
“Do what you love... everything else will come.”

If that's true, focus and utilize our gift appear to be the essential ingredient for a joyful life and seemingly by all means “non-negotiable”?

“To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.” ~ Matthew 25:15, Bible

諸如，另一些經常聽到的類似故事:

某人一輩子投入他所有的時間和精力，勤勤懇懇的工作。忽然一天醒過來，回頭看，才發現多麼後悔，自己在起初因財務的鬥爭，走在與自己相背馳的路。殊不知一天一天的過去，就冷淡、忽略了珍貴的潛能，接下來也埋葬了心中的理想.....

故事的結局又多是這樣 ~

假如，他們可以穿越時空，定盼能重新來過，修正從前！

這樣而言，當你還要賺錢餬口，但卻很倒霉地，幹着一份毫無前景的苦差（令你噁心！），那麼，也許是時候，跟自己剖腹對話對話一下:

要不加思巧地低頭、認命嗎？持續侵蝕心靈下去嗎？（就像被判了死刑一般！）。到頭來，完全失去了追求我們抱負的冲勁？

又抑或，從現在開始，努力拼搏，好好想辦法，分析手上的形勢，然後，盡量透切盤算好，設定正確的方向、目標，培植我們志願的生存空間？

Every so often, we heard how people go through their lives and look back with regret of having not followed their self-interest! If they had it over again they surely would have done it very differently...

In that sense, if we find ourselves battling with the pay check and being misery (meaning your job sucks!!). Perhaps, is time to entry into a heart to heart conversation with ourselves:

Whether let ‘this’ be our FATE (like a death sentence! at lease to me!!) and hang-up on that without giving it a thought, eventually lose our desire to pursue our purpose?

Or fight hard in every possible way and place our FAITH in things we dream to accomplish?

想到，於人生最後走上黃泉路時，我們都將要對一己所作出過的零零總總負責～有明智地善用我們的時間嗎？有好好運用我們的才華嗎？

也許，今天真正的問題我們需要問自己的，不僅僅是在這刻該選擇什麼（哪個工作）？而是要如何在尚未能，擺脫為錢賣命的枷鎖同時，弄清楚及掌握兩者之間的平衡狀況。

當然啦！要真正做得來，談何容易。

But again, presumably at the end of our life, we all will be held accountable for how we use our time and talent ~ perhaps, the real question is not about whether we choose to be in the moment but to figure out how to get a good balance between them!

That's easier said than done, of course and definitely won't be that straightforward if your 'bank account' is empty or your current option is limited either.

“Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet. ~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau (was a Francophone Genevan philosopher, writer, and composer of the 18th century)”



在人生旅途中，總遇有許多事，會考驗我們的忍耐和堅持。其實這也是生活的一部分啊！逃不了。然而，就以清代著名書畫，鄭板橋一首膾炙人口的古詩所言：

咬住青山不放鬆，立根原在破巖中；千磨萬擊還堅勁，任爾東西南冬風。
- 〈竹石〉鄭板橋



由此看來，對於知道自己想要做什麼的人來講，鏗而不捨地把持、追逐自己心中的決定，則需具超凡無比的決心和堅韌。即使，受盡艱難困苦，也無所畏懼、不輕易放棄。

再想想，人生從來是層層相屬，取捨之間的鬥爭。為了自己更幸福的活著，就必須懂得如何作出艱難的抉擇、準備學習犧牲的學問。

總而言之，雖說，你仍奔波在騎驢找馬、賣着勞力的窘境，崎嶇顛簸的路中。別忘慎重把焦點和關注，放在你自己獨特的天賦上。同樣地，謹防祇著眼於現狀，被它牽著鼻子走。久而久之，隨「常規」矇蔽了視線，湮沒生命的真諦。

嗨！那你呢？今日又有沒有善用你的「天賦」？

Still, I believe we all have things in our lives which try our patience, I certainly never recall anyone saying to me life was easy. Nevertheless we live and learn. We are resilient right?

And if you think about it, the hardest part will always be ~ to decide what we're willing to give up for the time being and prepare to deal with all the serious, hard life decision that come towards us.

Ultimately, all in all, not to lose sight or missed the point of life. Be sure we guardedly place our focus right and keeping our steps in check even when there are many bumpy ride on the road!

So, have you used what was given to you today?