

N – for “No one is coming for you”

Wladyslaw Szpilman:
I don't know how to thank you. Captain

Wilm Hosenfeld:
Thank God, not me. He wants us to survive. Well, that's what we have to believe.

~ By The Pianist¹ - 2002 Movie



Why hope matters?

從愛情鎖到願望樹 ~

是否在絕望的人眼裡什麼都可信？還是只想把持着「希望在明天」的信念...

From Love Locks to Wish Tree ~

Is it really 'desperate people' believe everything? Or we just try to do our best to keep HOPE alive ...

¹ THE PIANIST - 2002

Directed by Roman Polanski

Written by based on - The Pianist by Władysław Szpilman

Starring Adrien Brody, Thomas Kretschmann

Produced by Roman Polanski, Robert Benmussa, Alain Sarde

Distributed by Focus Features

一部好的電影（好書亦然），對我們影響深重。通過好的電影，讓我們得到啟發、喚醒。觸發我們去檢視自己的生活，甚至有機會好好反省我們所作的一切，修正己身的錯誤。

而電影「鋼琴家」（2002年），實必會在我的推薦名單內，榜上有名。特別是“Szpilman 初遇 Wilm Hosenfeld”的一幕，最令人難忘：兩個受盡折磨的心靈（戰爭中沒贏家，僅輸家。兩者只是不同層面上的受害者）以音樂相遇結連 ~~~

在二次大戰期間，德國納粹入侵波蘭首都。一名德國上尉軍官，意外地在華沙一座廢棄的房宅中，跟一個臨近死亡邊緣的猶太裔鋼琴家 Szpilman 偶遇上。

深深地被他的憂鬱、沉重，但震撼的演奏觸動，繼而激起了這位上校埋葬心底的內疚和悲傷...

最終，這位看來擁有強勢的上尉，坦然勇於良知，冒著一切，挽救那位苟延殘喘的鋼琴家。即使，他們像站在完全對立的戰岸。

每次重看依然令我大受感觸。而另一段當 Szpilman (Adrien Brody) 給 Hosenfeld 演奏過後，不虞逃逸槍決，不禁淚如泉湧，嚎啕痛哭...

也許是慶幸他自己得免於死有所波動？又抑或是劫後餘生，使他驟然從黑暗地獄中找回那失去多年的真我？

說到底，雖則他的肉身被這場難以言喻的戰爭百般折磨與凌辱，但卻無減退他對音樂的熱愛、及要生存下去的盼望。

看到這裏就會使我的心揪結在一起，忍不住潸然淚下，一陣心酸。幾乎有此衝動，想展開手臂給他一個大大的擁抱和安慰。

倘若你看到這裡並沒有像在剝着洋蔥、淚流滿面 (嗚嗚嗚)，那麼，恐怕你是塊石頭！



(英格蘭，利物浦市中心，利物浦 /
Liverpool City Centre, Liverpool, England)

A great movie (or a great book of course), it surely has significant impact on us. Through a good film we get inspired, awaken and sometimes it leads us to look back at our own life to rethink something we thought was right or even question ourselves.

Without a doubt, *The Pianist* (2002) is on my list of recommended to see. In particular, "Szpilman encounter Wilm Hosenfeld" that most memorable scene. Two tortured souls (oftentimes, there are no winners only victims in war and each suffering in their own way) meet for the first time and connect through the magic of music ~~~

A German captain unexpectedly found a degraded Jewish pianist Szpilman, who was hiding in an abandoned building at the verge of his death when Nazis invaded the Polish capital during the World War II.

Profoundly touched by the pain filled but glorious music played by this broken pianist, it provoked his innate feeling of guilt and sorrow lurking inside this once gentle German officer's heart...

At the end, this appeared superior and powerful Nazis Captain called on his courage, risked everything to save the powerless Szpilman's life, despite the fact that they were standing in the opposite lines of this horrific war.

I have to admit that it deeply move me, no matter how many times I watch them. Especially that tear-inducing moment when Hosenfeld spared this talented pianist life... and Szpilman (Adrien Brody) just broke down and weeping like an open floodgate without a sign of stopping. Perhaps it was the overwhelming sense of relief or he was able to hear his heart beep again?

Realised although his flesh clearly had been crushed and diminished by his horrify ordeal but not his soul. The tremendously pain he had been carrying around over the course of this unspeakable atrocious war and all his lost.

Oh! It virtually break your heart and you'll be tempted to run to him instantly and give him a hug, I bet. If you do not burst into tears along with him in that scene, waaah... you're stone (or plastic or a robot?).



從 *The Pianist*，也讓我想起了另一本著名的書：馬克吐溫的「頑童歷險記」～

在書中，同時探究着個人正義，與那年代之社會價值觀的掙扎。

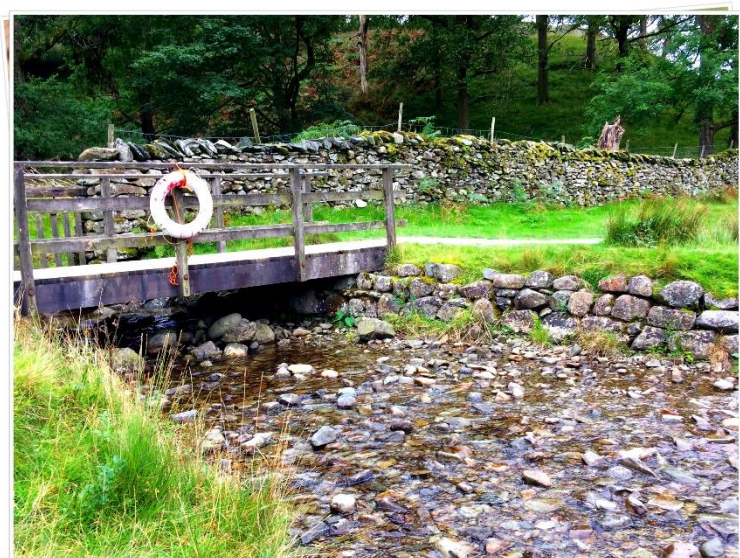
而我國先賢孟子亦論述：「人性本善」，他認為，每個人內心或多或少都保有善性、良知。

假若一天遇上和主流觀點，或身邊的眾多數有不同的看法之際，就該謹慎小心的反思，以及按著個人內心的自覺、良知行事，而非只是被周遭的外在風氣、或思想牽制，麻木以對、冷眼旁觀。

不是嗎？即使與我們外表大有差異的、甚至截然不同的獨立個體：不論年紀、階級、種族～也不是同樣地追求着快樂人生，都有着相類似的身心需求，並在某程度上同樣脆弱？

善惡之分，往往只出自一念之間，每個人都有機會可正可邪。了解到這點，將使我們對自己和他人有更深的體恤，而當你願意站在對方的角度去想時，許多不必要的紛爭、戰爭就不會這麼輕易地產生了。

就以上故事為例子，這不單單讓我們體驗那時戰爭的殘酷，更讓我們學到難能可貴的「溫暖在人間」之正能量精神。試想，若不是透過 Szpilman 當年友人，甚至全不認識的陌生人的協助與支持，他的性命絕不可保。



Watching *The Pianist*, it also reminded me of another great book “*The adventures of Huckleberry Finn*” by Mark Twain ~

We all have “righteous” deep inside each of us (I would like to think so!). It is important to distinguish between ‘right and wrong’, standing by our conscience and trust our own judgment. Don’t merely let your surroundings, society or in some cases the authority tell you what to believe or how to behave.

Be ready to challenge it when in doubt or ask ‘why’ if necessary. In other words, look out the ‘*have to play along it*’ trap and ensure that we do not let others impose their views on us.

In that same way, things we all have in common with those we think who outwardly appear vastly different from us. Regardless of age, status, ethnicity... we all have the same needs, the desire to survive and we are all equally vulnerable.

At the root of it all, we’re fragile beings. We all will at some point be capable of being good or evil, whether we admit it or not. Realising that will make you look differently at other people and yourself.



(格林威治，倫敦 / Greenwich, London)

Like in these two stories demonstrated: both good and bad human qualities have been captured in equal measure! I can't imagine, without enormous good luck and the kindness of Hosenfeld and Spilman's non-Jews friends or even some completely strangers ~ Szpilman himself might not have survived.

From Love Locks to Wish Tree~



隨著故事的進展，你會發現這不僅僅是一個關於絕境求生，不失去希望的非凡故事，而還有許多...

談到「希望」，又令我聯想起今年夏季，我和家人的北英格蘭之旅 ~

噢！可曾聽過「錢不會從樹上生出來」嗎？嘿！信不信由你，竟然被我碰上數株...

就是正當我們在湖區國家公園的樹林裡，欣賞著嘆為觀止的景色之際，不料看到一些樣子怪異的樹樁，而它外皮都鑲滿了硬幣，當刻實有點不明所以，但因美景當前，所以只管繼續旅程。

直至回家後，秉承着自己一向有天字一號的本色(咳咳!)，並抱有福爾摩斯的探索精神，便開始進行抽絲剝繭的搜索，才得以發現，這原是與許願、庇佑有關的民間迷信風俗(或相反，轉移不吉利的災害。據傳說，如任何人拔出硬幣，便會得到那鑲幣者之厄運，呀呀呀...)

無獨有偶，幾天後，又被我們在利物浦之阿爾伯特碼頭，遇上愛情鎖橋~「愛情鎖」是一種用以象徵著戀人間堅不可破的愛情。戀人們常在掛鎖前將他們的名字寫在鎖上，並在掛鎖後將鑰匙棄掉，標誌著愛之永恆，希望他們的愛可以天長地久!



...and I must on no account lose heart, since the Soviet offensive was expected any day now. ~ The Pianist (Book), page 181

As the story progresses, you find out this is much more than an extraordinary survival story about the critical of not losing hope and humanity but there are many more ...

Talking about 'Hope', it got me to recall my recent summer trip with my family in North England ~

Yeah, we often hear Mum (or Dad too) say: Money doesn't grow on trees. Huh!! Believe it or not, I did come across 'few' actually!

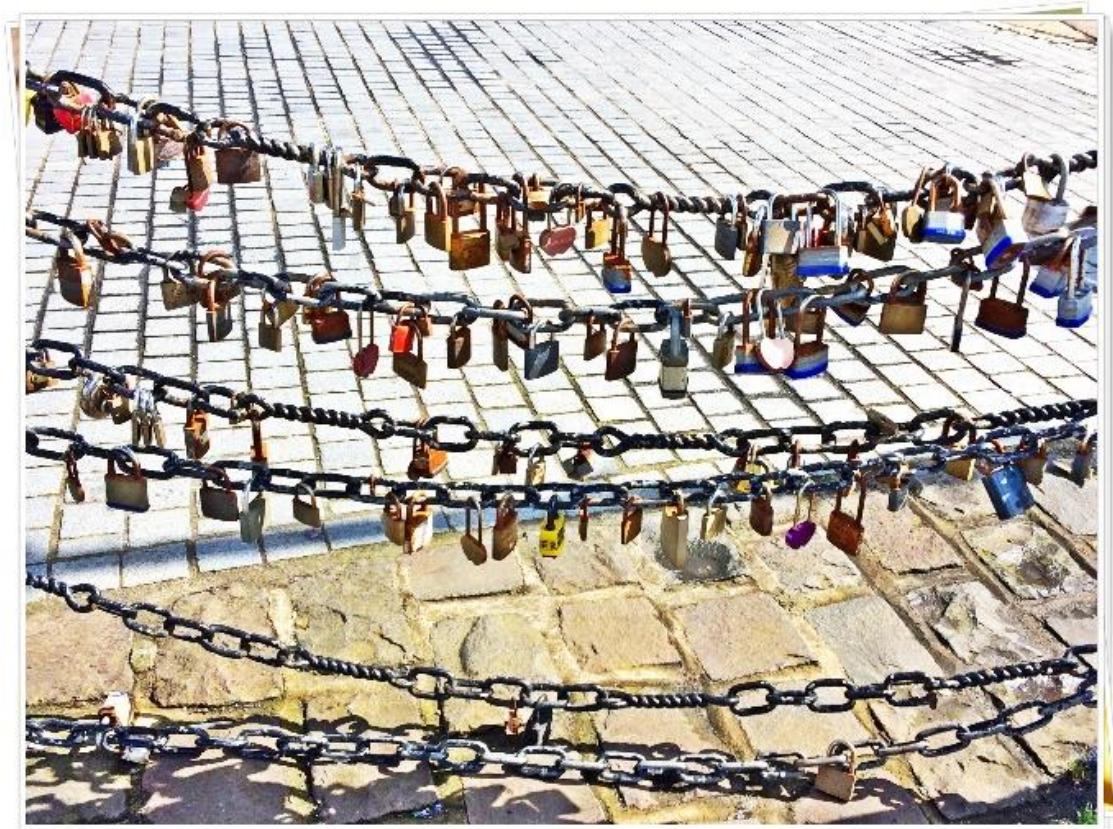
While we were crunching through the woodland of Lake District National Park and spotted a few mysteriously odd looking tree stump, which had been studded with coins (mostly pennies). We had absolutely zero clue what this was about at the time and continued to enjoy the breath-taking scenery in front of us.



(湖區國家公園，坎布里亞郡 / Lake District National Park, Cumbria)

Not until I returned home, somehow possessed by Sherlock Holmes's spirit and conducted my own dig. I found out that's a superstition and traditionally custom linked with wishes or vice versa (bad luck, it could get rid of an illness as legend dictates anyone stealing a coin will get the illness of the person who put it in the trunk, eerie!!).

Similarly, a Love Locks bridge we came upon in Liverpool dock, Liverpool few days later. Which lovers attach a 'padlock' to bridges or monuments to symbolize their love. Their names are inscribed on the lock and its key is thrown away to symbolize unbreakable love. Hoping their love would stand forever!



從愛情鎖到願望樹～

是否在絕望的人眼裡什麼都可信？還是只想把持着「希望在明天」的信念...

我想，不論是愛情鎖，又抑或願望樹，也許在「玩玩無妨」的動作背後，說不定意味著有更深層次的用心？

幸好，我們不常會生活在槍林彈雨 (如可怕的戰爭) 底下，但，對那種像無頭蒼蠅的茫然、惶恐愁慮、或 *'No one is coming for you'* 的絕望情緒，斷不會感到陌生。

當你一天發現自己徘徊在黯淡的荒野中，飽受像支離破碎的低潮壓倒時，也許抱着及不排除「希望在明天」之態度是必要的。

而靠著這種心態，不管眼前面對的風暴有多大，利用它作推動的角色，令我們每天早上起來，嘗試展開笑臉向前看，反總比乾脆就聽天由命來得真切、划算。

相信懷抱着希望，亦是創造了我們人類繁榮的其一之主要因素。有求新、求變，希望明天比今天會更好，這更是使人類持續昌盛的重要基礎和動力。

這樣，就從自己開始，向你身邊擴散「希望種子」吧！



(英格蘭，利物浦市中心，利物浦 /
Liverpool City Centre, Liverpool, England)

Edward: Ivy. You see light, when there is only darkness
~ *By The Village*² - 2004 Movie

Love Locks or Wish Tree, It led me thinking...

Is it really 'desperate people' believe everything? Or we just try to do our best to keep HOPE alive?

As fascinating as it may seem or just a bit of fun but –

I wonder whether behind the act of cultivating hope or to retain hopeful in itself is rather to be something far more than an intention of granted wishes and in hopes that desires will be fulfilled?

We certainly, do not often live in this "hell like" worst case scenario (war, for example). But we do however, no strange with the feeling of lost, fear or 'No one is coming for you' that depths of despair moment through times. The good, mundane and bleak. We've all been there, haven't we?

When times you're find yourself in the wilderness and feeling like you've got nothing left. Perhaps being 'hopeful' is needed. It works like fuel, boots us to stretch ourselves and get out of bed each morning or a bad chapter of life. A way forward, it prevents us blinded by the current climate or stop them to overpower us! As a result, we can find a way out instead of simply convinced ourselves that's our destiny.

Upon further thought, I wish to believe 'HOPE' is the driving force of humanity. It makes us see beyond and it's one of the major factors to contribute in human flourishing and most likely set us apart from the other species.

The world need hope, we need hope... it is necessary!

(愛沙班倫 summer 2017)

² THE VILLAGE - 2004

Directed by M. Night Shyamalan

Written by M. Night Shyamalan

Starring Joaquin Phoenix, Bryce Dallas Howard, William Hurt, Sigourney Weaver

Produced by Sam Mercer, Scott Rudin, M. Night Shyamalan

Distributed by Buena Vista Pictures



Hope, is like the seasoning in a soup.