

Lau Tin Tzar is from Guang Si, China, he was born in 1919 and is 87 years old this year. His was born into a family of farmers, his father passed away when he was 3 months old and he is a single child. He never met his father, and his family lived in poor conditions, he began to read and write when he was 4, 5 years old, his mother raised him up.

Most children in the village would traditionally start learning about the first volume of 'Man is born with a good nature' (Teachings of Confucius), I was taught by old Mr Ku, on my first day I had to pray to the Confucius statue, I learnt to write and *fill in red words*, and advanced my writing characteristics. The teacher was very strict, we had to read, write and recite writings all day, the teacher would not let the student's become lazy, the teacher had the right to punish students physically. Strict education was encouraged by most parents. When he turned 10, there would be 4 or 5 different types of books to read every day, in other words you couldn't not be studious, the book you read today you'll have to talk to your teacher about the next day, so the education was very firm. Most parents would hire private tutors to teach their children when they turn 3 or 5. My home become a school, all the young students nearby will contribute to funding for a teacher, when it reached 6 o'clock at night we would switch on the lights and study. The wealthy families in the village were also like this. The teacher explained that the meaning within the books were not too deep, some people said, you cannot study blindly, sometimes Mr Ku would teach us math, students weren't allowed to write in shorthand, they had to write in

full characters, most students were scared when the teacher punished them.

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Each day we would study for 9 hours, each year there'll be an increase in the amount of books to read, apart from reading we also had to learn to how to read paintings. What kind of games could we play? We didn't have any time for extra- curricular activities, even when I was young I didn't think it was a big deal, time flew and each day each month would pass quickly, all we had in mind was studying, time passed and we had studied a lot of old history, with time I grew older, my mind changed as each day passed, it was only the society's new 'air' which I hadn't come across, I knew that in the near future I would have to go to a new school, my education progressed, and my mind progressed with it. What I studied wasn't the average book, history, university,m poetry, etc, not these kind of intellectual books, it wasn't suitable for our generation, the teacher had to teach, but the students also had to learn, parent's only wish was for their children to become educated, it was because at that time children didn't not want to rebel against their parent's pride.

I remember when I was 15, I had to leave home to study at secondary school, I had taken the exams and all the registration was completed, only my math grade wasn't as good, on the day that I left home, my grandmother couldn't bare for her only grandson to leave home at such a young age to study. She couldn't change her heart to let me study at secondary school, she kept me at the village for 20 years. When I was a bit older, there was nothing I could do, I could only listen to my grandmother, so, when I eventually studied at secondary school, I still remember old Mr Ku's strict teachings, to respect the teacher, and to be a good person, when I was at school my grades were quite good, 3 years passed, my family life changed dramatically, my grandmother also passed away, the place could not, there was no longer the ability to aid my studies, so that was how it ended.

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I was outgoing and I aspired to develop, study, and find a career opportunity, and living etc. This was my aim, during the time when I was taught by old My Ku, I was good at writing, in addition I learnt quite a bit of historical literature, some elders introduced me to work in the writing department of the law courts,

everything went smoothly up to the point of what I aimed for, it was worth all the caution by my elders, the caution by my teacher old My Ku, with regards to my education that is.

To respect my teachers and parents, be loyal, responsible and work hard, to treat others with care, so my career was quite successful, elders and colleagues were happy to lead me in the right directions, I became more familiar with skills and issue related to my work, however I wasn't very optimistic about my position at work due to the breaking out of the Sino-Japanese war,, so I changed jobs to a anti-Japanese student centre, demonstrating to the public, writing up posters, publishing anti-Japanese documents, working on the newspaper stands on the streets and other jobs which students should be doing, the pacific war broke out, and the British declared war on the Japanese, the Americans landed in the South Pacific, the Americans directly hit Japan's Tokyo, and China and America combined forces to fight the war,, they further attacked 'Chung Hing', America launched the Atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, the Japanese royalty surrendered. China won the war after 8 years of fighting, my job was finished. The government wasn't able to organize for people's positions further.

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