

Other letters

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2.47 A letter to express love to your darling

My dearest Juliana,

Where are you tonight? Your phone call came a day ago – a cruel day – I had hoped you would spend all the time with me here.

Victoria Harbour is a dead place without you. Before I knew you, it was Victoria Harbour ; and I thought it heaven ; but now, it is a vast desert of desolation and loneliness. It is like the face of a clock, bereft of its hands.

All the pictures that hung in my memory before I knew you have faded – they have given place to our radiant moments together. Now, I cannot live apart from you – your words, even though bitter – dispel all the troubles of the world and make me happy ; my art has been suckled by them and softly rocked in their tender cradle ; they are as necessary to me now as sunlight and air.

I am as hungry for them as for food. I am thirsty for them, and my thirst is overwhelming. Your words are my food, your breath my wine. You are everything to me.

With love,
Your Raymond

親愛的梅花：

今晚，你去了哪兒？一天前，我收到你的電話，那真是殘酷的一天啊！我本來想和你渡過這一天的。

沒有你，維多利亞港就變得死氣沈沈。在認識你之前，維多利亞港就是美麗的維多利亞港，美得像天堂一樣，但現在，沒有和你在一起，維多利亞港就仿佛變成了一片空虛的荒漠！它就像一個沒有指針的時鐘，空有外表，沒有靈魂。

認識了你，我以前的一切記憶，變得模糊，因為那些記憶，已被我和你在一起時的歡樂時光佔據了！

今天，如果你離開我，我就不能活下去。你說的每一句話，即使是尖酸的，也驅散了世上所有煩惱，令我雀躍不已。你的話，就好像柔軟的搖籃，滋養了我的藝術，就好像陽光空氣，我一刻也不能缺少。

我渴望聽到你說話，猶如飢餓的人想要食物，口渴的人需要喝水。你的說話，就是我的食糧；你的氣息，就是我的美酒；你，就是我的一切！

熱愛你的傻佬洪

2.48 A letter answering what is life

Dear Mr. Will Durrant,

You ask me, in brief, what satisfaction I get out of life and why I go on working.

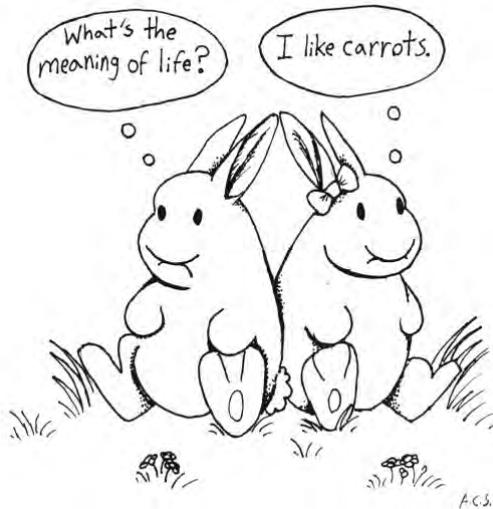
I go on working for the same reason that a hen goes on laying eggs. There is in every creature an obscure but powerful impulse to active functioning. Life demands to be lived. Inaction, save as a measure of recuperation between bursts of activity, is painful and dangerous to the healthy organism – in fact, it is almost impossible. Only the dying can be really idle.

The precise form of an individual's activity is determined, of course, by the equipment with which he came into the world. In other words, it is determined by his heredity. I do not lay eggs, as a hen does, because I was born without any equipment for it. For the same reason I do not get myself elected to Congress, or play the violoncello, or teach metaphysics in a college, or work in a steel mill. What I do is simply what lies easiest to my hand.

It happens that I was born with an intense and insatiable interest in ideas, and thus like to play with them. It happens also that I was born with rather more than average facility for putting them into words. In consequence, I am a writer and

editor, which is to say, a dealer in them and concoctor of them...

Yours sincerely,
H. L. Mencken



杜蘭德先生：

你問：「我在生命中得到什麼？」又問：「為什麼我要那樣辛苦地幹活？」

我要幹活，猶如母雞要生蛋一樣。我相信，凡是有生命的東西，隱隱中都會有一種莫名的衝動，那是要為生命積極行動。我以為，生命就是積極地活動。沒有積極活動 --- 除了是在積極活動間的歇息 --- 生命是痛苦而危殆的。事實上，沒有積極活動的生命，幾乎是不可能的，因為只有垂死的人，才會無所事事。

一個人的活動能力，是與生俱來的。換言之，他的活動能力，就是他的遺傳天賦。我不能生蛋，因為我沒有這種天賦能力，同樣道理，我做不來國會議員，彈不好大提琴，不會在大學裏教書，或者當不成鐵路工人，也全是基於同樣原因。而我最能做的事，就是我做得最容易的，那是一項不能解釋的恩賜：我是天生好奇，喜歡思考，同時，又有一種比平常人為佳的能力 --- 那就是將意念化為文字。於是，我就以寫作和編輯為生，亦即是說，我的積極生活，就是從事文字工作了…

孟肯 謹上

2.49 A letter paying regard to an old friend

Dear Johnny,

Last night, Cindy and David dropped into my place. We had really a very good time, just like those good old days when you were with us. We talked about you, of course, and wondered what you were doing right now. Could it be possible you were thinking of us at that moment?

Almost a year has gone since we bid farewell to each other at the airport. Apart from a few hurriedly scribbled postcards, you have not written us a letter long enough to tell us what is going on with you?

What kind of life are you living in England? Is there any difference from ours? Is anything keeping you busy? Or have you fallen in love with a pretty blonde girl? Your best friends and me in Hong Kong are very anxious to know something about you. Will you let me have the privilege to be the first one to spread the good news of you?

I am working hard as usual. Alex has married Mary. Chan has completed his doctorate degree. These are no surprise to you, I presume.

Chinese New Year is approaching and the festive mood is going up. How do you feel about it? Indeed, we all miss you very much on this very special occasion.

Drop me a few words. I am watching my post box for your response.

With best regards,
Raymond



Johnny :

昨晚，Cindy 和 David 到訪我家，大家把酒談天說笑，仿佛回到從前，當時我們四個人一起讀書，一起吃飯，一起行山，一起說笑。當然，我們談到你，因為沒有了你，我們內心難免感到十分遺憾，我們實在很想念你，想知道你的近況，不知你是否會一樣掛念我們呢？

有空，請來信給我們，說說你的近況，好嗎？

Raymond



2.50 A letter congratulating a friend on her marriage

Dear Lisa,

I am very excited and delighted to hear that you have just married. Allow me to congratulate you with all my heart upon your successful choice of a life-time partner.

Indeed Mr. Cheung is a very lucky guy to have you as wife. Also, I think you are very fortunate too, to have chosen such a good husband.

Where are you going to settle down? Will you move to Australia and if yes, when? Have you decided this yet?

I wish I can see you soonest before you leave Hong Kong. Let us have a chat about your plan, your marriage and your Mr. Cheung. I am sure everyone envy you and him, for you are the most beautiful girl in our class and Mr. Cheung is such an honest, modest and wise man as we all know.

Tell me all about your marriage life when you write to me. Your friends: Kitty, David, Mary, Amy and myself are all keen to know it. You have kept your marriage very quiet; but now you need not be so secretive any longer.

I wish you to be a joyful married woman forever.

With best wishes,
Raymond



Lisa :

知道你剛剛結了婚，內心感到十分興奮，今天，就讓我恭喜你，
新婚快樂，甜甜蜜蜜。

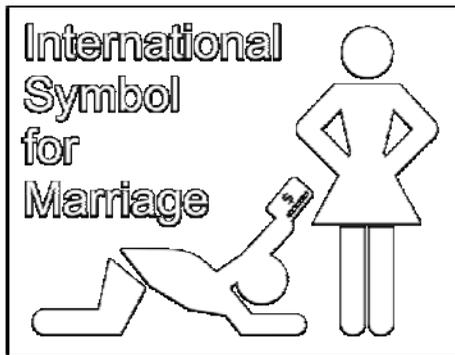
你從來都令人羨慕：長得漂亮，天資聰穎，運氣又好，加上眼光獨到，所以就揀到個好老公！我相信你一定是個好太太，因為你富有愛心，又懂得體諒別人。

你們會在哪裡建築你們的愛巢呢？你們是否會移民澳洲呢？若是，又幾時起程呢？我真想在你們離開香港前，和你大吃大喝，細訴離情，幾時得閒，請打電話給我。

祝你永遠幸福快樂！

永遠記住你的朋友

Cindy



2.51 A letter expressing seasonal greeting to a customer

Dear Mr. Alex Lee,

It is so good, at least once a year, to put aside business hustle and to write a letter just in the spirit of the Christmas season.

You have long been my good client. More than that, you are also my very good friend. True, it is my privilege to have so many dealings, whether business or personal, with you. And now, I would like to say from my heart: I really value our relationship as a real friend, not just as a business acquaintance. Even if from now on you do not give me any more order, I still regard you as my friend. When you have time, will you drop in my place and let us have a chat with a wine or dine?

So, here are my warmest and most sincere seasonal greetings to you. May all the happiness of the season be yours and may it continue with you throughout the coming years.

Sincerely yours,
Raymond Yeung

Alex :

又到感恩節了! 記得去年此時, 你和我和一大班老友在長沙海灘上, 追追逐逐, 玩得不亦樂乎。

如今你我相隔萬里, 我實在非常掛念你!

今天, 和李仔談起你, 說你已經去了澳洲生活差不多一年了, 但未曾收到你的消息, 你是否太忙嗎?

如你有空, 可不可以給我一封信, 或一個電郵, 說說你最近的生活, 好嗎?

我們真的很想念你。

你永遠的老友: 阿洪



Happy Thanksgiving

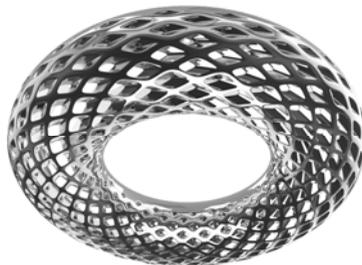
2.52 A letter of thanks - for courtesy to a relative

Dear Philip,

Your courtesy to my son last month, while he was in New York, was something that I shall never forget. I wanted him to see you and say hello from me. But your insistence that he be your guest for five days really impressed me. You certainly added immensely to the pleasure of his stay in the New York city.

If you come to Hong Kong, please let me know early. I hope that I can take the opportunity to return your kindness.

Very sincerely,
Raymond Yeung



Alexander :

你對我的兒子實在是太好了！

當天，他到英國受訓，由於沒有宿處，所以不得不打擾你。我本來叫他在你家暫住，沒想過要你們照顧他的起居飲食的，那實在是太麻煩你了。據他說，你不單只照顧他的飲食，還照顧得無微不至，令他如在家中一樣感到溫暖呢！

我實不知怎樣感激你，只得由衷說句：多謝！

下次你來香港玩，記得要來我家，讓我親自用心款待你，藉以聊表心意。

Raymond



2.53 A letter of thanks - for a visit

Dear Philip,

Juliana and I, really, had a splendid time last month. You were such a marvelous host and we would like you to know how special you have made us feel. Everything you did for us, just name a few: the decoration in our room, flowers on the table, choicest magazines on the rack, the yummy lunch... all these will be remembered by us forever.

After the many hectic months we have been experiencing, your kindness has made us feel refreshed, renewed. Now, we have missed you deeply. Thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts.

With love,
Raymond



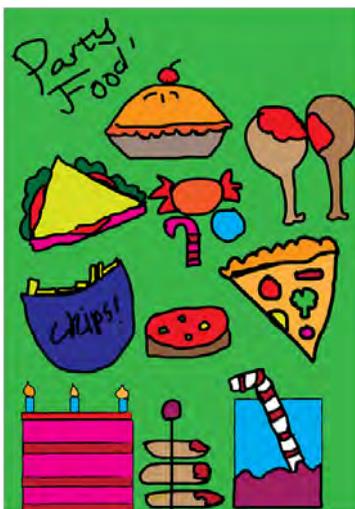
Philip :

昨晚，我和太太實在快樂得不得了，其實，這全是你的莫大功勞，為我們搞了一個這麼令人迷醉的晚會。

你實在是一個十分能幹的女主人：那麼好玩的活動，那麼美味的食物，那麼溫馨的佈置... 你全弄得天衣無縫，簡直是好... 好到無得彈呀！多謝！

過幾天，我們就要離開香港了。若你有空，可否和我們一起到我們暫住的酒店晚餐晚飯，也讓我們一盡地主之誼來招待你，好嗎？最後，我們衷心祝你幸福快樂。

Raymond



2.54 A letter of thanks - for a dinner

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cheung,

Juliana and I thank you for including us among your dinner guests Saturday night. It was a great pleasure for me to meet some of the people with whom I have been longing to meet. Indeed I was especially glad to meet both of you.

Your dinner was wonderful. Everything was so splendid: the food, the atmosphere, the happy chatting, the setting... All were so nice that I could never forget.

It was a lovely time: that's what I can say. Thank you very much, indeed!

With love,
Raymond



張先生，張太太：

謝謝你們邀請我到你的晚會，當晚，我認識很多朋友，尤其是江小魚和花無缺，他們實在是太棒了！

我們說說笑笑，談到憐星公主，覺得她實在可憐，而那邀月公主，卻可極之可恨，不過，說到後來她的遭遇，我們又覺得她十分可悲呢！

我真的十分喜歡江小魚，他的鬼主意，實在令人樂透了！
下次再有類似的晚會，記得叫我呀！

對此，仍懷著
愛與歡欣的
Raymond



2.55 A letter of thanks - for a gift

Dear Alexander,

I am not used to say, "You shouldn't have done that," because that is an outdated expression. But I cannot find another words to express my gratitude for your kind generosity. Juliana and I and my children are enjoying your gifts.

Many thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

With love,
Raymond



Alexander :

我並不慣說「你不要這麼客氣」，因為這已經是一句很老套的話了。但今天，我找不到更好的詞句，來表達我心中想說的意思，因為：你實在是太客氣了，謝謝你！

Raymond



Raymond Yeung 教授英語

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時間：雙方協議 (早上九時至下午九時) 星期一至日，包括公眾假期

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