



## Teacher Shows Girls How to Reach the Top

近日，中宣部授予云南省丽江市华坪女子高级中学校长张桂梅“时代楷模”称号。63岁的张桂梅坚守滇西山区教育事业数十年，帮助1800多名贫困女孩圆梦大学，创造了大山里的教育奇迹。

Author/ Xie Duanyi



About 20 years ago, while on the way to visit a student's house, Zhang Guimei (张桂梅), then a rural teacher in Huaping county, Lijiang, Yunnan province, noticed a girl sitting on the hillside. She was staring blankly into space. She was completely preoccupied. The girl, 13, told Zhang she was about to get married. It was arranged by her parents. "But I want to go to school," the girl says. Zhang went to her house and tried to persuade her parents to let the girl return to school and promised to pay for her tuition herself. However, they didn't agree.

Zhang says she feels sorry not being able to help. "We always say, each child should stand on the same starting line, but these girls didn't even have a chance to get on the track," she tells Xinhua News Agency.

That fateful encounter persuaded Zhang to build a free high school for girls, aiming to help break the cycle that saw women drop out of education, marry early and spend their whole life in the remote mountain. The priority of less well-off families was to spend whatever scarce resources they had on educating their sons. After years she tried to raise funds, in 2008, Huaping High School for Girls, a free public high school, was founded at the foot of the Shizi Mountain (狮子山) in Huaping, where Zhang is the principal.

Over the decades, Zhang walked thousands of kilometers, visiting students' families in the deep mountain, talking to villagers, persuading girls to go back to school. More than 1,800 graduates have been admitted to college, which is regarded a "miracle" in the remote area, as most students didn't perform well in academic study before the school was established.

Though lacking of full health, Zhang, now 63, insists on a daily routine that get up at around 5 a.m. to turn on the lights of the teaching building, call students to get up with a loudspeaker, accompany students to classes and sleep after senior students' study ends at midnight. She has collapsed several times from exhaustion on the campus. She swallows dozens of pills a day. Zhang Guimei says she wants children from the mountain to attend the best universities.

In early December, she was named a national outstanding member of the Communist Party of China for her dedication to education in rural China. She was also given the honor of the country's "role model for teachers", "advanced worker" and "outstanding woman". Her moving stories inspire thousands of people.

Zhang Guimei told the media a girl can influence three generations. "An educated, responsible mother will not let her children drop out of school," she says, adding the goal is to prevent poverty from passing down from generation to generation (阻止贫穷的代际传播). Now the school has grown and facilities have been improved, it covers about 5 hectares, with a large, renovated teaching building, three dormitories, a canteen and a soccer field. Classrooms are equipped with computers and electronic screens. The school is financed by the local government and has received donations from individuals and companies. What impressed most people is the pledge of the Huaping High School for Girls, inspiring and encouraging.

*I was born a great mountain, not a small stream.  
I want to stand on the mountain top to look down upon the lowness of the ravines.  
I was born extraordinary, not worthless.  
Standing on the shoulders of greatness, I despise all groveling cowards.*  
(我生来就是高山而非溪流，我欲于群峰之巅俯视平庸的沟壑。我生来就是人杰而非草芥，我站在伟人之肩藐视卑微的懦夫。)  
*And Shakespeare once said something similar to the school's pledge.  
Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.* (有些人人生而伟大，有些人成就伟大，还有些人不得不伟大。)

This may be the first step to stimulate the girls from disadvantaged background to make achievements through convincing them to believe that they were born to be great. Being unreconciled to become a coward is the source of the girls' spirits to change their own destinies.

### FOCUS ON



A1: The Central Propaganda Department awarded Zhang Guimei, the principal of Huaping Girls' Senior High School in Lijiang City, Yunnan Province as a "Model of the Times". Learn more about her in A1.



A2: Beating out some high-tech giants, the Chinese liquor producer is now the most valued company in the A-share(A股) market. Our reporter interviewed his relative Mr. Ao Chen about Chinese version vodka Maotai and its boom.



B1: Two of the most popular delights from Shaxian county, Sanming city, are noodles boiled in bone soup served with peanut butter, along with wontons(云吞) filled with juicy meat in a sizzling soup.



B2: After 19-year-old Andrew entered the Chevrolet Conservatory of Music, he was recruited by teacher Fletcher to the Jazz Studio Orchestra. One aspires to become a great jazz drummer, and one dreams of training the next jazz genius.

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I can make it through the rain. I can stand up once again on my own.

## Maotai: Major Stock in China



If one was wise enough to invest in the stocks of Maotai (茅台) ten years ago, it's said that he would've earned 40 times more. Beating out some high-tech giants, the Chinese liquor producer is now the most valued company in the A-share (A股) market. As a young man, I barely have any knowledge of the liquor itself, so I interviewed my relative Mr. Ao Chen, a senior Bai Jiu lover, about this Chinese version vodka and its boom.

Interviewer: Zhu Hongyi  
Interviewee: Ao Chen

Q: It all starts with a question. Why are Chinese so obsessed with drinking Bai Jiu (the white liquor literally)?

A: It may be traced back to the famous verses of an ancient poet Ouyang Xiu. His poem goes like this: a drinker takes pleasure not in the wines, but in the mountains and waters, the delight of which flows through the wine into heart. (醉翁之意不在酒，在乎山水之间也；山水之乐，得之心而寓之酒也。) In a modern context, you might as well replace "mountains and waters" with "Guan Xi". It then all makes sense.

## Energy in China's New Era

Author/Wang Junyu

The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China released a white paper titled "China's Energy Development in a New Era" on Dec. 21. The white Paper introduces China's achievements in energy development in the new era and comprehensively elaborates on China's major policies and measures to promote the energy revolution.

Energy is the foundation and driving force for the progress of human civilization. It has a bearing on national economy, people's livelihood and national security, bears on the survival and development of mankind, and is crucial to promoting economic and social development as well as improving people's well-being.

Since the foundation of the People's Republic of China in 1949, China has gradually built itself into a relatively complete energy industry through self-reliance and hard work under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. Since reform and opening up, China has adapted to the needs of rapid economic and social development, promoted

Q: How has Bai Jiu influenced our culture?

A: You can see how important it is in our culture. In a society where unspoken rules prevail, liquor drinking is a social ritual (惯例) practiced to smoothen and strengthen the ties between people. Numerous pop songs have been dedicated to this phrase, such as "life in a word, love in a cup (一辈子，一生情，一杯酒)" or "hail to friendship, the treasure of our life, like a cup of liquor, like an old song. (朋友的情谊呀，我们今生最大的难得，像一杯酒，像一首老歌)" It is believed that strangers can make instant friends through drinking together. There is also persuasion that the more expensive the liquor is, the stronger the tie is going to be.

Q: Then how do you like the boom of Maotai?

A: It may be arbitrary to say that Maotai's market value is nurtured completely by the country's Guan Xi culture. But it is a reminder, if not warning, when a country seeks to revive its economy and embrace an open culture, it is necessary to have less superstition in liquor and more faith in rules.

comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable energy development, and become the world's largest consumer of energy production and the country with the fastest improvement in energy efficiency. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China's development has entered a new era and so has its energy development. China has all long adhered to innovation, coordination, new development of the green, open, sharing ideas, to promote the development of high quality as the theme, in order to deepen the supply side structural reform, comprehensively promote energy consumption pattern change, build multivariate clean energy supply system, implement the strategy of innovation driven development, continue to deepen reform of power system, for promoting international cooperation in energy, China's energy into high quality development new stage.

When ecology prospers, civilization prospers. Challenge in the face of climate change, environmental risk, energy resource constraints such as increasingly severe global problems, China set up the concept of human destiny community, comprehensive green transformation, promote economic and social development in efforts to boost its own clean energy of low carbon development at the same time, actively participating in global energy governance, along with countries seek to accelerate the global energy the sustainable development of the new road.

Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.

## Problems Related to Seeds and Farmlands

Author/Wang Junyu

The central Economic Work Conference, which concluded on Dec 18, laid out priorities for the next year, including solving the problems of seeds and arable land. The meeting stressed the need to strengthen the protection and utilization of germplasm resources, strengthen the construction of seed banks, resolutely curb the "non-agricultural" of cultivated land, prevent "non-grain", and better safeguard national food security.

China will strive to tackle problems related to seeds and farmlands as one of its key economic tasks for 2021, a key meeting said. To ensure food security, the country will strengthen the protection and utilization of germplasm resources and the construction of seed banks, according to the annual Central Economic Work Conference, which concluded on Dec 18. The country will also continue to prevent the use of arable land for non-farming purposes, it said.

This year, China has achieved 17 consecutive years of high grain production, keeping above 50 million tons for six years in a row, laying a solid foundation for national food security and serving as an anchor for economic and social development. However, due to the impact of COVID-19, floods in the south, typhoons in the northeast, and grass wormtail, the topic of national food security has been frequently mentioned. The Central Economic Work Conference put forward that "the key to ensuring food security lies in the implementation of the strategy of grain storage on the ground and grain storage on technology".

How to hoard food for technology? Seeds are known as the "chip" of agriculture. The amount of cultivated land in China is limited, so the key to grain production is to increase the yield per unit area, and seeds play a key role. The meeting pointed out that scientific and strict supervision should be respected and the industrial application of biological breeding should be promoted orderly. To carry out the provenance "clamp neck" technology, China determined to fight a seed industry turnaround battle.

Grain is stored in the technology, and it will be stored in the ground, for the ground is the foundation of food production. Arable land is a limited and non-renewable resource. If the red line of arable land is broken, China's food security is out of the question. It was proposed at the meeting that the red line of 1.8 billion mu of arable land should be firmly adhered to, and that the state should establish an industrial belt for food security, strengthen the development of high-standard farmland, strengthen the construction of irrigation and water conservancy, and carry out the national black land protection project.



two mouth

Topic: How to treat western festivals?

Author/Song Chenghan

I think Chinese people should treat Western festivals rationally, as festivals are a way to understand Western culture. As the saying goes, knowing yourself and the enemy will never end in a hundred battles (知己知彼, 百战不殆). We must be familiar with our potential opponents, including their culture, so that we can spread our movies and cartoons in the world with their easy-to-understand logic, improve the status and influence of our culture in the world, and let the world be able to understand China objectively, change the current situation where the Western countries discredited us more than where understand us.

福建沙县小吃一直以其丰富美味的口感和较高的性价比被人们称赞,如今,它正逐渐走出中国,赢得世界各国人们的青睐。

Shaxian Delicacies  
Taste Global  
Success

Author/Xie Duanyi

More than 200 types of delicacies from Fujian province are making mouths water not only in China but across the world. Two of the most popular delights from Shaxian county, Sanming city, are noodles boiled in bone soup served with peanut butter, along with wontons(云吞) filled with juicy meat in a sizzling soup.

Twenty years ago, Luo Guangcan, 59, worked in a local shoe factory to make a living. Now, he earns considerably more by operating five restaurants serving Shaxian delicacies in cities such as Beijing and Tianjin, as well as Tangshan and Baoding in Hebei province. He has developed these eateries(饭馆) since 2007, and four years ago, he opened his first overseas restaurant in Singapore. In recent years, the annual profit from his businesses has reached more than 1 million yuan (\$153,000), Luo said. He is also planning to expand his business in Singapore, and considering opening a restaurant in Malaysia, where there are many overseas Chinese.

More than 60,000 people, mostly farmers, from Shaxian county have run restaurants across China serving Shaxian food since the 1980s, when locals traveled far to set up family-run outlets. As the number of college students, migrant workers and traders in urban areas rose in the early stages



Author/Xie Duanyi

Nowadays, as we all live in a 'global village', we could have access to different nation's culture and novel ideas. The festivals in other western countries like Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter and so forth are gradually being celebrated by we Chinese. Some hold that this is the signal of leaving our own culture behind, but I would say that if we balance the relationship between western culture and our own tradition, knowing more about new thoughts is not that bad. For instance, on Thanksgiving Day, we learn to show our gratitude to people around us, giving them the sincerest thanks for their hard work. On Christmas, we and our family could sit together and have a family reunion, thinking our highlights through the whole year. So try not to be so mean to other cultures, if we could absorb the merit of others, our own culture would be more prosperous.

of reform and opening-up, the delicacies were welcomed for their flavors and affordable prices. The restaurant owners, who rely on razor-thin profit margins, have gained a better standard of living by working long hours.

There are now more than 88,000 restaurants serving Shaxian delicacies nationwide, with a total turnover of over 50 billion yuan annually, according to the Shaxian Delicacies Trade Association. Providing foodies with quality snacks at competitive prices, the Shaxian delicacies business has become a local pillar industry.

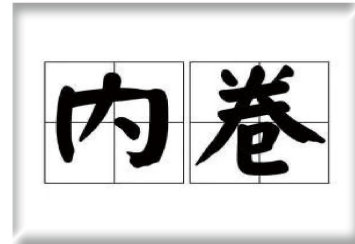


Luo said he first thought about running a restaurant in early 2000, when he saw more people earning good money from such businesses, but he initially lacked the confidence to become involved. He said that on Aug 8, 2000, President Xi Jinping, who at the time was deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China Fujian Provincial Committee and governor of the province, paid an inspection visit to Shaxian county. "He happened to visit my home, chatted to me about my work and encouraged me to develop a Shaxian delicacies business to earn a better income. He said Shaxian delicacies could be the county's pillar industry, they had a bright future and should be developed well." Luo said. In 2007, Luo spent 500,000 yuan on setting up his first restaurant serving the delicacies in Beijing, which changed the course of his life. Now, after years of developing his businesses, he has tasted success.

Shaxian delicacies have made a lot of people in his hometown rich, and more importantly, they have served as 'food ambassadors', as they have become increasingly known among foreigners.

You Shall Not  
Accept Involution

Author/Zhu Hongyi



The term "involution(内卷)" is increasingly heard nowadays as an explanation of how life has become harder day by day. It is originally borrowed from agricultural economics, meaning additional labor is put into agricultural production for higher output, which yet doesn't grow proportionally. In the current context, it means competition becomes fiercer when population outgrows resources. What used to be easy to get now demands increasingly more effort. While resources become limited, what can't be limited is our way of thinking. When it becomes harder to achieve a goal, a smart move is to rethink the goal. At this moment, it's more important to think wisely than work hard.

A good road is the road less traveled by.

Maybe it's time to pursue something that's not everyone's passion. Choosing what not to do is more significant than deciding what to do. What if you haven't figured out what you want to do?

Remember that true wisdom comes from practice. Keep doing what you have to do or what you can do at the moment; in the meantime, keep thinking.

The level of competition we have in China is often compared to millions of troops crossing a single wood bridge. The majority of us try hard to get ahead of the troops. But there are also the wiser ones who look for a different bridge.

A good road is the road less traveled by.

There are of course chances that you would fail to get onto any bridge. Then all you have to do is to manage your desires. Resources become inadequate fundamentally because human desires grow. Material pursuits don't enrich a soul; a rich soul, on the other hand, needs no comfort from material wealth. When everyone else is after material success, you can always turn towards spiritual wealth. This is also a road less traveled by.

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less traveled by.  
And that has made all the difference.

by Robert Frost

## A Good Movie to Watch: Whiplash

Author/Song Chenghan

——电影推荐:《爆裂鼓手》

After 19-year-old Andrew entered the Chevrolet Conservatory of Music, he was recruited by teacher Fletcher to the Jazz Studio Orchestra. One aspires to become a great jazz drummer, and one dreams of training the next jazz genius. What kind of sparks the encounter between the two will inspire?

I share three thoughts from two parts: "teacher" and "student".

Part 1: Teacher

Genius or mediocrity

Terence Fletcher: "Truth is, I don't think people... understood what it was I was doing at Shaffer. I wasn't there to conduct. Any f\*\*king moron can wave his arms and keep people in tempo. I was there to push people beyond what's expected of them. I believe that is... an absolute necessity. Otherwise, we're depriving the world of the next Louis Armstrong. The next Charlie Parker. I told you that story about how Charlie Parker became Charlie Parker, right?"

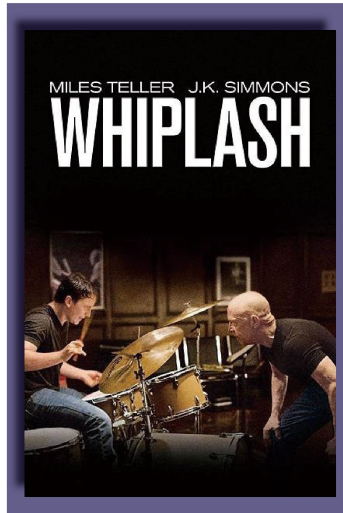
Andrew: Jo Jones threw a cymbal (铜钹) at his head.

Terence Fletcher: Exactly. Parker's a young kid, pretty good on the sax (萨克斯). Gets up to play at a cutting session, and he f\*\*ks it up. And Jones nearly decapitates him for it. And he's laughed off-stage. Cries himself to sleep that night, but the next morning, what does he do? He practices. And he practices and he practices with one goal in mind, never to be laughed at again. And a year later, he goes back to the Reno and he steps up on that stage, and plays the best motherfucking solo the world has ever heard. So imagine if Jones had just said, "Well, that's okay, Charlie. That was all right. Good job." And then Charlie thinks to himself, "Well, shit, I did do a pretty good job." End of story. No Bird. That, to me, is an absolute tragedy. But that's just what the world wants now. People wonder why jazz is dying. I'll tell you, man - and every Starbucks "jazz" album just proves my point, really - there are no two words more harmful in the entire English language than "good job".

Fletcher can tell talents from the ordinary (慧眼识才), and when meeting students who have potential, he will invite them to the orchestra, but the newcomer soon discovers that he has encountered a devil teacher. Cursing with swear words and discriminatory words is commonplace, and it is yelling against the faces of students. Even slapped hands, usually the person being scolded is either sweating profusely or crying.

To be honest, this is not a way of guidance that I can accept. Ten students may be hit hard and never touch the instrument. He still can't find a genius. What's worse is that people with low stress resistance choose to commit suicide. However, I agree with his philosophy that most geniuses are not born. Compared with talents, the contribution of hard work is more important. Some people need spurs to have the motivation to go to the next level. On the other hand, Fletcher will find at least two to three drummers to compete with each other, and then let the best performer be on stage.

In addition, compared to many people living a



mediocre life, Fletcher knows exactly what he wants and has struggled for many years. No matter what the result is, at least he has never regretted it. This is something he is proud of.

Part 2: Students

It is divided into two points: "The price of success" and "Always be early".

The price of success

Uncle Frank: So that's your idea of success, huh?

Andrew: I think being the greatest musician of the 20th century is anybody's idea of success.

Jim: Dying broke and drunk and full of heroin at the age of 34 is not exactly my idea of success.

Andrew: I'd rather die drunk, broke at 34 and have people at a dinner table talk about me than live to be rich and sober at 90 and nobody remembered who I was.

Uncle Frank: Ah, but your friends will remember you, that's the point.

Andrew: None of us were friends with Charlie Parker. That's the point.

At Family dinner where chatting about the current situation, it is inevitable that everyone's achievements will be compared. Uncle Frank disagrees with Andrew as a drummer, but Andrew is very clear about his goals.



What are the conditions for success? In addition to connections and luck, strength is indispensable and the most critical condition. No hard work, no gain, there is no shortcut to the top, only practicing day after day. While his classmates were having fun, Andrew was trembling with his hands at home, and his hands were bleeding. He planned to make teacher Fletcher look at him with admiration. Have you ever made up your mind to do something? Instead of worrying about not having time to go out with your friends, it is better to think that true friends will be forgivable. They will wait patiently for you to survive the retreat. All you have to do is to concentrate on moving towards your goal every day.

Always be early

Terence Fletcher: Five-P.M. call tomorrow in Dunellen. Give yourself at least two hours to get there this time, alright? Save your travel receipts. Or don't. I don't give a shit.

Andrew: Hey. Sorry, I'm late.

Terence Fletcher: Well, glad you could fit us into your busy schedule, darling. (反讽:感谢你在百忙之中抽出时间比赛!)

The official competition of the orchestra would be on the next day. Teacher Fletcher also reminded everyone to get there early. Unexpectedly, the bus had a puncture. Andrew hurried to rent a car and rushed to the venue. When he arrived, he found the drumsticks on the car. In addition, when Andrew was first selected for the orchestra, Fletcher explained that his first practice was at 6 o'clock the next morning. However, he overslept and got up at 6:05. Although it was discovered a joke afterwards, the actual practice was at 9 am, but what if it really was six o'clock? A rookie (新手) who dares to be late may be expelled from the orchestra before practicing.

I think punctuality is the most basic virtue. If you arrive early every time you make an appointment with others, it means that you will handle other things with the same attitude, and be prepared in advance every time to minimize the unpredictable impact. Not to mention the interview. Whether it is a representative of an American school or a director of a new company, people who are late usually have a significantly lower chance of being admitted. I would rather wait for someone else than let them wait. After all, I have to be the early guy when asking for help. Coming early has a lot of benefits: You can get familiar with the environment, check the information, calm down, organize your appearance, and have plenty of time to solve emergencies calmly.

Conclude:

I would like to recommend this movie to every friend who is struggling for a certain goal or dream, so that you can give yourself more motivation to stick to it. In addition, parents, teachers and bosses should not miss it. They can think about the way of leadership for children, students, and subordinates, and how to make the yardstick between strict requirements and letting them go (顺其自然). There is no best way, only constant trying and adjustment.

Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.