

Sunzi's Simple Life

By Jerelyn Lee
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My name is Jerelyn Lee. I am fourteen years old living in the United States. My grandfather, General Lee Yu-Ri, was an expert in Sunzi Bingfa. I visited Suzhou Qionglong Mountain, the birthplace of Sunzi Bingfa, with my family in the New Year 2008. I have learned more about Sunzi, my family's history, and my grandfather's work in Sunzi Bingfa when I was helping my father to establish a website (www.leeeyuri.org) in memory of my grandfather.

I was fascinated by the scenes at the Qionglong Mountain. The calming and peaceful mountain captured nature's beauty. The smell of refreshing bamboos filled in the air. Following a trail in the bamboo forest on the top of the mountain, passing by an impressive gallery with a full collection of calligraphy of Sunzi Bingfa, in the languages of Chinese, Japanese, and English, carved on marble stones, approaching a giant bronze statue of Sunzi, a trail with stone steps led me to the most impressive Sunzi's living quarter. An inspiring, small, and simple cottage has only few rooms displaying a table, a bed, chairs, and some farming tools. With Sunzi's remarkable career in his time, I imagined that he could have had a big mansion for his retirement. Until now I realized that because of his simple, quite, secluded life style, Sunzi was able to accomplish his extraordinary work, the world's famous book that has been treasured for thousands years, Sunzi Bingfa. This also demonstrates our Chinese culture, heritage, and wonderful qualities that have been passed on from generation to generation.

Recently I read a series of media newspaper reports and magazine articles about the war that caused thousands of people lost their homes and lives. I then realized that billions of dollars spent on this war is for taking control of the world's natural energy resource, oil. The oil has become an essential element in human's daily life especially in industrialized countries. Everyday we rely on oil for producing electricity, transportation, and even for cooking and heating, etc. However, burning gasoline can increase release of CO₂ into the air. Carbon dioxide triggers the ozone layer to become thinner. The temperature of the earth increases due to thinner layer of ozone. This so called the Greenhouse Effect has caused global warming and ice glacial melting. Therefore, overwhelmingly consuming in oil can cause destructive and devastating wars, jeopardize human's health and life quality, harm earth's natural development, and ultimately endanger the environment that we live in.

Oil has become such an important element in human's life, yet it has caused devastating hazard. How to balance the needs to solve the problems? In my view, the best way to achieve this is to conserve energy, live with a simple life like Sunzi did, take responsibilities, and act now to protect the earth. What is simple life in natural living style? Actually it's a healthy and undemanding life style in the natural way of living. I suggest that we should start doing the basics to develop a healthy life style; such as

walking more and driving less, exercising more and watching less TV and playing less electronic games, eating more organic vegetables and fruits and consuming less meat, recycling more and wasting less. By doing these, people can live longer and healthier. Not only we would conserve energy and protect the earth, we would also prevent wars, which would benefit all of us.

In addition, every country's government should take the leading responsibilities to educate people and regulate the industries to conserve energy. The Chinese government has set a great example for promoting "Macro Control" (hong2guan1tiao2kong4). By controlling the growth of economy and regulating industries and businesses, we can prevent excessively producing goods to avoid over supply markets and demands. Moreover, all countries should promote "Kyoto Protocol" with international coordination and planning. Let everyone in the world to take care and save our earth!

A famous Chinese proverb says: "It takes ten years to grow a tree, a hundred years to train a person." The earth is our mother and it is the only place human can live and depend on. It doesn't take long to destroy our planet if we don't act quickly. I truly appreciate Sunzi's philosophy of living life, which has enlightened me in a new revolutionary way of living to improve life. Not only I have recognized my responsibilities of caring and saving the earth and people, I have also realized that if all of us work together, the earth would be a much better place and even more beautiful!

俭朴的孙子

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2008年4月于美国

我的名字是李佳玲。我今年14岁，住在美国。我的祖父李浴日少将是一个研究孙子兵法的专家。今年元旦时，我和我的家人游览了苏州穹窿山《孙子兵法》的诞生地。回到美国后，我在帮助父亲建立一个纪念祖父的网站(www.leeyuri.org)时，让我对孙子和我的家族历史有了更进一步的了解。

我非常向往穹窿山的风景。宁静悠闲的山谷里充满了大自然的美丽，空气中洋溢着翠竹的芬芳。沿着山中小径，穿过满挂着《孙子兵法》中、日、英文花岗岩石刻的中式回廊，绕过孙子的青铜像雕塑，踩着石阶，我来到了令我印象最深刻的孙子隐居茅舍，草堂内只有几个小隔间，其间陈列了简单的桌椅卧床，还有一些田野农用的工具。以往我一直想像，

以孙武大将军的显赫功业，他应该有一个宫殿式的退休居所。这时我深深体会到，就是因为这样简单而朴素的隐居生活，让孙子得以撰写他这千年不朽的创世巨作《孙子兵法》，并且这也正就是我们中华民族代代相传的美德。

最近我看到报章杂志许多有关伊拉克战事的报导，成千上万的平民百姓因此流离失所、丧失生命，我才发现这个已花费了数百亿美元的战争，其实为的就是要抢夺世界石油资源的控制权。石油在我们的日常生活中已是不可或缺的要害，我们每天靠它来发电，开车，烧饭，取暖等。可是燃烧石油，还会增加二氧化碳的排放，让保护地球的大气臭氧层变薄，产生了温室效应，进而使地球气候异常，两极冰层快速溶解。所以消费大量的石油，不但会为人们带来战祸，也会严重威胁到人类的生态与环境。

石油对人类既是这么重要，又有这么大的危害，那我们应该怎么样来平衡这个问题呢？我认为最好的方法就是节约能源，就是要效法孙子崇尚简单朴素与自然生活的精神，并且要以身作则，立即开始。什么是简单而朴素的自然生活呢？其实也就是一种健康节俭的生活方式，我建议我们应该建立起如：多走路少开车、多运动少看电视或玩电子游戏、多吃有机蔬果少食鱼肉、多回收少浪费等等的良好生活习惯。这样做，人们不但可以活得健康长寿，又能节约能源保护地球，还可以防止战争，真是一举多得。

此外，各国政府必需负起领导的责任，教育人民和规范企业来节约能源。中国政府一直在推动的“宏观调控”，就是一个很好的例子。藉控制经济的增长和对企业的约束，我们可以防止因为过度生产而造成资源上的浪费。另外，国际上也应该大力推动像“京都协议”一样的全球性合作计划，让全世界每一个人都来关爱我们的地球！

中国有一句谚语：“十年树木，百年树人”。地球是人类的母亲，也是人类赖以生存唯一之地，如果我们不马上采取行动的话，这个地球不消几年就会被人们的浪费所摧毁。我非常感激孙子的生活哲学所带给我的启示，它不仅启发了我对地球与人类的爱心，也让我体认到只要大家同心协力，这个世界会更加美好！