

LIFE SHOULD NOT BE PERFECT

(A translation from the prose of Zhang Zong-muo by Andrew K.P Leung on 14.4.2007)

Life should not be Perfect
It's Bliss to have a gap
To allow it to flow to others

In a packaged society
We envy the exterior
And bear a grudge in our wants

But no life is perfect
Each of us wants something

Some have a happy marriage
And a handsome income
But suffer from incurable infertility

Some have talent to match beauty and wealth
But stall at the crossroads of love

Some have the riches of kings
But are dogged by worthless offspring

Some seem to have it all made
But carry only an empty brain

For every life is marked with a gap
It follows you like a shadow

I used to bear a grudge in my loss or want
But have learnt to accept it with grace

The gap in our life is a thorn in our flesh
To remind us of humility and compassion

For there is no pride without suffering
And no sympathy without calamity

I believe that life should not be Perfect
It's Bliss to have a gap
To allow it to flow to others

You can't have everything
Lest others won't have any

Every life is missing something
It's meaningless to compare
And far better to cherish

My entrepreneur aunt became a Nun at 70
She was the Wada of Taiwan
She told me, 'I have met many of the Great and the Good
Beneath their enviable exterior, everyone had a cross to bear
However unbearable it may be.'

So stop grudging and count your blessings
You'll find you have more than you want
What you miss or lose may not be welcome
But they are the essence of life
Accept it and treat it in this light
You'll be far happier and fulfilled than you think

If you are an oyster
Would you give up constant pain
In nurturing a pearl
To exchange for a life of comfort?

If you are a mouse in a cage
With a mouth-watering cake
Would you sulk or enjoy?

A terracotta piggybank will be broken when full
An ancient but empty one could be a priceless antique
Which would you rather be?

Jot down your answer every time you ponder
Until it no longer changes
Then you will have mellowed.
