

SPEECH GIVEN BY LISELLE MEI AT MEMORIAL SERVICE 24th
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My wonderful dad. Each of you knew him in your own special way but to me, he was always dad.

A loving, supportive, generous dad who despite all his many commitments and busy public life, always took the time to be with me, to nurture and guide me, to inspire and delight me- to infuse me with his passion and joy for life and living- and above all, to remind me to cherish life's pleasures and savour the moment.

I was his proud and adoring daughter. As a child growing up, I would carry around a little red book of his many sayings. "Positive thinking" was the first thing I ever wrote down. Whatever happened in life, my dad would tell me to choose the positive side. He believed deeply in the power of positive thought and how positivity could shape our minds and transform our lives- and the world around.

I remember my dad sharing a strong childhood memory that was a turning point in his life. He was 10 years old playing football with his best friend in Hong Kong. His friend went to retrieve the ball from under a fence and got electrocuted, dying before his eyes. My dad told me how this sudden, shocking loss made him realize how precious life was- and from that day on he became determined to live each day with positivity and not waste a moment.

And in my eyes, this is how he lived his life- with colour, vibrancy, compassion and true positivity.

My dad loved nature. He would always want to go for long walks through Regents Park or Hampstead Heath- to immerse himself in beauty and reconnect with the present moment. In the summer we would walk through the rose gardens, always

taking the time to smell each rose and marvel on its colour and scent. In these precious moments, he taught me to appreciate life and to remember the value of simply being.

I will miss my dad tremendously- not just as a father but a dear friend. We loved nothing more than to philosophize endlessly about life's meaning and share our latest revelations. Our conversations energized and inspired me. He would always encourage me to cultivate inner harmony and peace, to have a big flexible heart and let life flow through me. And above all, he would always remind me to keep an eye on that precious moment- to live present tense.

My magnificent, darling dad was- and will always be- my guide, my rock, my inspiration. Though it is impossible to imagine life without him, his positive spirit, courage and determination to live a meaningful life lives on within me and his two grand daughters, MinAi and LiYa.

He told me once that the meaning to one's life is self realization. And I believe he found this. It gives me comfort to know that he left this physical world a happy and enlightened man, fulfilled and at peace with himself.

And I know he would want us to remember him in this way- to transform the pain of his loss into something meaningful and positive for each of us.

Now, standing here before you on this final farewell to my dad, I would like to end on something positive by reading the last poem he wrote on December 5th.

I would like to start with the dedication that precedes the poem- in his soon to be published book of poetry.

“To the collective consciousness of humanity, between heaven and earth, between cosmos and quantum world.

I am deeply grateful to all those in my life without whose inspirations and challenges there would be no moments in words.

The emotions and ideas expressed within these pages are bestowed by my loved ones who forever delight my heart.

This poetic moment is dedicated to you”

THE MOMENT by Professor Man Fong Mei

This is the moment

I am in your presence

You are in my presence

Together we sip our tea of life

This is the moment

Together we indulge our imagination

The sweet memory of the past

The excitement for the future

The hope we share

In this winter air

Our presence together

In celebration.