

The world is interactive, up to a point

Tsang Shu-ki (12/10/06)

The fact that I choked myself with a small lump of pork and had to undergo a 30-minute operation to clear and dilate the passage at a hospital in early September taught me another lesson: never take anything for granted. I should have learnt it many times over since several years ago---but that's easier said than done.

One can only predict the future very roughly, even on the pettiest events concerning one's humble self. This lesson I would call "a soft reminder that is hard to swallow", quite literally. It was entirely my own fault. Nevertheless I turned out to be lucky that I became poorer just money-wise.

As to the outside world at large, I think one should keep one's very minor place in a complicated and dynamic web of forces beyond individual control in the proper perspective. Any informed analyst can talk about the unrelenting rise of China, the irreversible decline of U.S. hegemony, the inevitable clash of civilisations, or the coming World War III etc. However, we better presume that while we may have some "insights" regarding specific aspects, at the same time there are probably thousands of people, in particular those with much greater power of influence and stronger vested interests to defend, who would react by all sorts of means to those "insights", which could then change "reality", up to a point. (So this is NOT a submission to nihilism.)

I don't recall where I read the following: "It is the end of you, not the end of the world." To me, they sound like words of wisdom worthy of remembering from time to time, if only to cast one's rather limited existence in the right context.