

悲智雙運 活在當下 「大禹傳人」李焯芬教授



李焯芬教授
Professor Lee Chack Fan

在海外華人世界中，「李焯芬」足稱碩望宿德，僅是在維基百科(*Wikipedia*)即可羅長列，經院校長院長、地質水利專家、佛教徒、文學作家，但他的人生之道卻是如此簡單易明，「人生不外數十寒暑，宜把握有限的生命，善用有限的時光，活好每一個當下，多做一些利益人群的事。」

天人合一 共治科學人文

在李焯芬教授的身上可以看到異於常人的生命氣息，身份地位崇高而多重，他既是全球著名的地質工程及水利專家，參與過包括三峽工程在內的多個大型核電站、大壩及基礎設施的建設；又是一個教育家，曾任香港大學副校長，現任明德學院署理校長、香港大學專業進修學院院長、香港大學土木工程系講座教授；更令人記憶深刻的是，他還一個文采飛揚、著作豐盛的文學作家，廣涉散文、通識書籍及心靈小品，其中「活在當下」及「心無罣礙」在商務印書館的2008年暢銷書榜「中文文學」類別中排名第一及第六位。

李焯芬教授擁有崇高的學術地位，他曾發表國際學報論文270餘篇，專著9冊。2001年當選加拿大工程院院士及香港工程科學院院士；2003年當選中國工程院院士；2006年又獲加拿大西安大略大學頒授榮譽理學博士。

多重地位及追求，恰是李焯芬「天人合一」理念的詮釋：「科學求真；人文則求善求美。如能把科學與人文共治於一爐，則可以有個真、善、美兼及的人生。科學探索萬物存在與運作的規律(即天道)；人文則探索人的精神世界(即人道)。科

學與人文的融合，也就是古人所說的「天人合一」。」

大禹傳人 中華大地防災減災

如今，幾近古稀之年的李焯芬教授仍長年奔波於中華大地，為中國的防災減災出謀劃策。回望過往寒暑數十載，他的貢獻卓著，贏得了中國「大禹傳人」的美名。

李焯芬教授1965年畢業於聖若瑟書院，其後入讀香港大學土木工程系，在以一級榮譽畢業後，再獲得港大的碩士學位。他隨後到來加拿大西安大略大學主修岩土工程，1972年取得博士學位。畢業後，他曾在加拿大西安大略大學及多倫多大學任教，後長期服務於加拿大西安大略省水電局及省電力公司，歷任高工、總工、工程部門總經理等職；負責水電、核電建設、大壩安全評估、核電站及大壩抗震、核廢料處理等研究課題。他曾長期兼任世界銀行、聯合國發展計劃、亞洲開發銀行、國際原子能機構、加拿大國際開發總署等機構的科學技術顧問，並曾被選任加拿大岩土工程學報副主編、加拿大大壩安全委員會主席、國際岩石力學學會構造委員會主席、加拿大核學會抗震設計規範委員會主席、香港工程師學會岩土工程委員會主席。

早始於上世紀七十年代，李焯芬教授已經參與中國多個水電、核電、大橋及基礎設施項目的可行性及設計論證，包括三峽工程、四川二灘水電站、青海李家峽水電站、雲南瀾滄江漫灣及小灣水電站、湖北清江隔河岩及水布亞水電站、吉林白山水電站、廣東大亞灣及嶺澳核電站及浙江秦山核電站等。

李焯芬教授長年累月踏遍內地偏遠地區，連愛妻也會以大禹治水，三過家門而不入的典故「調侃」他一番。不過，這並非戲言，當年，全國政協原副主席錢正英就曾以「大禹傳人」

四字相贈，表彰他對中國水利的貢獻。

李焯芬教授不無感慨的說，「我太太是個很包容，很能體諒別人的人。在多倫多生活時，大約有十年光景，太太是孟嘗中文學校的高年級老師，我是義務的校長，互相配合得還不錯。兩個孩子長大了以後，我回香港以便做長江三峽工程及其他的水利工作。太太也回來做中國文化的研究及教學工作。兩人也有不少共同的愛好和人生的追求，也算是很難得的因緣了。」

心無罣礙 服務社會

付出身心貢獻社會的李焯芬教授德隆望尊，2003年獲香港特別行政區委任為太平紳士，2005年獲香港特別行政區頒授銀紫荊星章，2005年獲授美國富布爾特傑出學人獎（Fulbright Distinguished Scholar）。

在繁忙的野外工作之間，李焯芬教授還熱心於社會事務，參與大量的社會服務工作，包括兼任香港中華文化促進中心理事會主席、香港大學饒宗頤學術館館長、香港獸醫管理局主席、共建維港委員會主席、衛奕信勳爵文物信託理事會主席及西九文化區管理局董事局成員等公職，並於2003年起擔任香港福慧慈善基金會會長，該基金會主要從事中國西部貧困地區助學工作。

多倫多華人社區也不會忘記，李焯芬當年積極參與本地華人安老及教育義務工作，對於加拿大的生活及華人社會的寄望，他說，「加拿大是個美麗富饒的國家。我有幸在加國生活了二十多年，特別懷念加國一年四季不同的景色，和那醉人的秋楓；也很懷念加拿大人的平和、包容和有禮。我期待在未來

的歲月裡，加拿大社會將會湧現更多的華人移民成功典範與及各行各業的翹楚，進一步提升加拿大華人的社會地位，與及加拿大主流社會對華人聰明才智和工作能力的認同。」

佛學修練 志趣超然

李焯芬是虔誠的佛教弟子，精通中、西亞的佛教史，曾創辦香港大學佛學研究中心和福慧基金會等佛教慈善組織，他的很多佛心禪意都融入於其作品之中，如《心耕》、《悲智願行》、《水的反思》、《心無罣礙》、《活在當下》、《禪是一朵花》、《佛智今用》、《安忍精進》、《走出困境》等。

對於個人信仰追求，李焯芬如是說：「人應該在物質與精神之間取得平衡。達到健康和快樂自在心靈的途徑很多，我較傾向於用禪宗的方法。禪宗有許多講智慧的般若經典，但最重要的還是靠自己生活中去感悟、去思考這些理念，這樣才能應用於生活之中，解決人生路上碰到的各種問題。禪宗的其中一個觀點是：假如你做了一點點好事，別老是想自己會因此而得到什麼功德，或作出了什麼貢獻；因為，這樣一來，就再沒有什麼功德可言了。」

人生無常 盡力而為

雖然光環照耀，但李焯芬一樣難免傷痛或不如意時刻，比如，多年前香港富商李嘉誠捐款十億港元給香港大學，支持醫學研究。但在醫學院冠名問題上引發校友的爭議，李焯芬代表學校進行公眾解釋，但場面仍相當情緒化，甚至火爆，需要極大的耐心和誠意去解決爭議。

另外，在李焯芬擔任六年的「共建維港委員會」主席，也曾介入於解決因填海帶來的官司和皇后碼頭的遷拆等問題爭端。在日本福島核事故後，香港部份民眾也會因擔心鄰近的大亞灣核電站安全問題而發出異議，作為大亞灣核電站核安全諮詢委員會的副主席，李焯芬又應當局邀請，向香港市民、傳媒及反核人士作出較合乎科學技術的解釋，以釋大家的疑慮。近幾個月來，國民教育成了香港社會的一個熱門話題。作為教育局「德育及國民教育專責委員會」主席，他亦應邀向市民大眾及傳媒詳為解釋課程指引的宗旨和具體內容。

李焯芬以這些例子表明，「這都不是讓人感到特別愉快的事例，但卻是眼前需要做的的工作，應坦然面對之。即是，活好每一個當下，把眼前需要做的事盡力做好，做完就把它放下，不必再掛礙。我的老師饒宗頤教授愛畫荷花，認為筆挺的荷枝撐托著荷葉，象徵著「負荷」和承擔的精神，我會謹記饒老師的教誨：人也應像荷花那樣，在風和日麗時固然要承擔，在疾風暴裡更應有所承擔，努力做好自己應該做的工作，然後把它放下，別讓塵埃上心間。」

李焯芬的人生座右銘是：「悲智雙運、活好當下」，他的詮釋即是：

「悲智雙運」是慈悲與智慧並重。慈悲（或愛心，助人之心）是快樂之源。與此同時，人有智慧，才會自在。因此，「悲智雙運」能讓人活得快樂自在。

「活好當下」就是善用每一個時刻，做好每一件工作（或每一個角色）。



1968年夏，以一級榮譽畢業於香港大學
Graduating from the University of Hong Kong
in 1968, with first class honours



1970年9月初，時為西安大略大學博士生
As a Ph.D student at the University of Western
Ontario, September, 1970



1998年末，於加拿大工程院頒典禮上
At the award ceremony of the Engineering
Institute of Canada, 1998



自2003年起擔任香港大學饒宗頤學術館
館長，有幸親聆教益
With Professor Jao Tsung-I, 2003



1977年歲末，與太太李美賢及兩兒（業群、
業華）攝於多倫多市家中
With wife Mei Yin and sons Kenneth and
Alan at home in Toronto, Christmas, 1977



八十年代末，於達靈頓核電站主控室
At the Main Control Room of the Darlington
Nuclear Power Station, late 1980's



2005年，獲西安大略大學頒授榮譽理學博士
Receiving an honorary doctorate in science from
the University of Western Ontario, 2005



2005年，獲香港特區政府頒授
銀紫荊勳章
Receiving a Silver Bauhinia Star from the
Hong Kong SAR Government, 2005



李焯芬夫婦服務於孟嘗學校
Mon Sheong Foundation Chinese School



1985年夏，於中國青海省黃河上游李家峽
水電站壩址水平探洞內
In a horizontal adit of the Lijiaxia dam site,
on the upper Yellow River, Qinghai Province,
western China, summer 1985



2006年4月，於中國西安市陝西師範大學
福慧獎助學金發放儀式上
Presenting scholarships to students of the
Shaanxi Normal University, Xian, China,
April 2006



李焯芬與其部份著作（香港中華書局）
With some of his books, at a Hong Kong
bookstore

Professor Lee Chack Fan

‘Descendent of Dayu’ ‘Live well.... with wisdom and compassion’

There is good reason why Professor Lee Chack Fan is held in such high esteem in the overseas Chinese community: in Wikipedia, one can find a long list of his achievements: University president, geotechnical and water resource management expert, Zen Buddhist, author of many books.... But his life philosophy is relatively simple and straight forward: Life is short and we need to seize every moment to do what benefits people.

One can describe Professor Lee as person extraordinaire in every sense of the word. Not only is he a world renowned geotechnical and water resource expert, he is also an educator, was a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, now the Acting President of Centennial College, a division of the University of Hong Kong. He is currently the Director of the HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education. Most remarkable of all, Lee is also a prolific writer, having written many essays, books, among which, two books: 「活在當下」 and 「心無罣礙」 were on the best sellers list of the Commercial Press in 2008, ranking number one and number six respectively at the same time.

Professor Lee is also held in high esteem in the academic world. He had published more than 270 articles, and 9 books. In 2001 he was elected a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences. In 2003 he was elected to the Chinese Academy of Engineering. In 2006 he was awarded an Honorary Degree of Honorary Doctor of Science by the University of Western Ontario.

Holding these esteemed positions is a good manifestation of Professor

Lee’s philosophy of ‘man and nature being one’. He says, ‘in science we pursue the truth, in art and literature we pursue the good and the beautiful. If we merge science and art together, we have a life of truth, goodness and beauty. Science is the search for understanding the physical world (nature) and art is the search for understanding the spiritual world (man). Integrating science and art is what the ancients called ‘man and nature being one’.

Today, the aging Professor Lee still goes back and forth across China, working on various flood prevention schemes. Decades of tireless work in this area have won him the moniker of ‘Descendent of Dayu’!

Professor Lee graduated from St. Joseph’s College in 1965, and was subsequently admitted to the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Hong Kong, where he graduated with first class honors in 1968 and was awarded a Master’s degree in 1970. Lee then went to the University of Western Ontario, majoring in geotechnical engineering and in 1972 received a PhD degree. After graduation, he taught at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto. Then he worked at Ontario Hydro for a number of years, serving as senior engineer, chief engineer, department manager, responsible for hydropower and nuclear power plants design and construction, dam safety and earthquake assessment. Professor Lee has also served as scientific and technical adviser for the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the Asian Development Bank, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and other institutions. In addition, he served as associate editor of the Canadian Geotechnical Journal, Chairman of the Canadian Dam Safety Committee, the Chair of the International Society of Rock Mechanics Technical Committee, the Chair of the Seismic Design Code Committee of the Canadian Nuclear Society, and the Chair of the Geotechnical Engineering

Committee, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers.

Since the 1980s, Professor Lee has been involved in the feasibility study, design and actual construction of many of China's hydropower and nuclear power plants, including the Three Gorges Project, the Ertan Hydropower plant in the province of Sichuan, the Lijiaxia hydropower station in Qinghai province, the Manwan and Siuwan hydropower stations in Yunnan province, etc.

Professor Lee spends so much time travelling to remote parts of China, even his loving wife teased him that he was just like Dayu (, a legendary ruler who introduced flood control schemes in China four thousand years ago and whose story of passing outside his own house three times without entering while he was overseeing flood control projects is common folklore.) But this is closer to the truth than one realizes. At that time, Qian Zhengying, former minister of water resources, wrote the words 'Dayu Descendant' on a book as a gift for him in recognition of his outstanding contributions towards water resources management in China.

Professor Lee says, not without sentiment, 'my wife is a very tolerant and considerate person. In Toronto, where we lived for eighteen years, my wife was a teacher for the Mon Sheong Foundation Chinese School while I was a volunteer principal. Our work complemented each other. After our two sons grew up, we returned to Hong Kong, where I was involved in the Three Gorges project and other water resources management work, my wife also came back to do research in Chinese culture and teaching work. We have many common interests and it would be hard to find a better match!'

Professor Lee has been well recognized for his dedication and contributions to society. In 2003, he was appointed a Justice of the

Peace by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In 2005 he was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star. In the same year, he was elected to be a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar by the State Department of the United States.

Despite this heavy workload, Professor Lee has also been actively involved in many community services, including being the Chairman of the Hong Kong Institute for Promotion of Chinese Culture, the Director of Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole at the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Veterinary Surgeons Board Chairman, the Chair of the Harbourfront Enhancement Committee, Council Chairman of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Board of Directors. Since 2003, he has been the President of Fu Hui Charitable Foundation in Hong Kong, which provides education opportunities for the poverty stricken areas in the western parts of China.

The Chinese-Canadian communities will not forget how Professor Lee enthusiastically volunteered in many senior services and Chinese language teaching programs. Professor Lee says of the Chinese-Canadian community here, 'Canada is a rich and beautiful country. I was fortunate to live there for over twenty years. I especially miss the four distinct seasons in Canada, and the gorgeous fall colours. I also remember the peacefulness, the tolerance and politeness of Canadians. I hope in the coming years, more Chinese immigrants will become successful role models in every profession and industry, and raise profiles of Chinese-Canadians in the mainstream society, so that our wisdom and competency can be recognized by all Canadians.' Professor Lee is a devout Buddhist, well-versed in the history of Buddhism in central and eastern Asia. He was a founder of the Centre for Buddhist Studies of the University of Hong Kong and other Buddhist charitable organizations. His Buddhist and Zen beliefs

are manifested in his books: 《心耕》、《悲智願行》、《水的反思》、《心無罣礙》、《活在當下》、《禪是一朵花》、《佛智今用》、《安忍精進》、《走出困境》。

About his personal beliefs, Lee says, 'A person has to seek a balance between physical and spiritual pursuits. There are many paths to reach a state of happiness, but I tend towards the Zen path. Zen has many wise sayings, but the most important one is to find inner peace and happiness for oneself through living, to reflect and to come to your own understanding. This way you can apply the wisdom thus acquired to your own life, to resolve the problems you encounter on your life's journey. One of the Zen views is that, 'if you do something good, don't think about what you will get in return, because once you do that, you have defeated your own purpose.'

It is not all glory and fame in Lee's life – there are occasional unpleasant and sad times. For example, in 2005 Li Ka-shing donated one billion Hong Kong dollars to the University of Hong Kong to support its medical school. But the naming of the Faculty of Medicine after Li Ka-shing turned into a controversial and emotionally explosive event, which required a lot of patience and sincerity to resolve. Professor Lee represented the university to explain the renaming of the medical school to its alumni.

As the Chair of the Harbourfront Enhancement Committee for the past six years, Professor Lee was also involved in the court case arising from land reclamation and relocation of the Queen's Pier. After the nuclear accident in Japan last year, some people were concerned about nuclear safety in the nearby Daya Bay nuclear station. As the Deputy Chairman of Guangdong Daya Bay Nuclear Plant Safety Consultative Committee, Lee was asked to explain the technical issues in layman's terms so that the public can understand and calm their fears. Recently,

moral and national education in the classroom is another hot topic. As the Chair of Ad-Hoc Committee on Moral and National Education of the Education Bureau, he was invited to explain the underlying principles and contents of the curriculum guide to the public and the media.

Professor Lee uses these incidents to clarify, 'these were not happy events, but it was work that needed to be done. In other words, you have to do what is required to the best of your ability at the time. Once you have finished, put it behind you, and don't leave it on your mind. My teacher Professor Jao Tsung-I said that the branch holding up the lotus flower was a symbol of bearing your burden gracefully. One has to emulate the lotus branch, gracious and sturdy while holding up the lotus flower. When we encounter difficulties, we have to do what needs to be done, and then we put it behind us and look forward.'

Professor Lee's life motto is 'Live each moment of your life well... with wisdom and compassion'.

He interprets his motto in these insightful words: Wisdom and compassion are both important. A compassionate heart is the source of happiness, and at the same time, wisdom lets you live without worry. So having both wisdom and compassion allows one to live a happy carefree life. One must utilize every moment of one's life to do one's work well.