find simplicity out of clutter

Kenny Chiu

Leonardo da Vinci once said, "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication." To Albert Einstein, if we can't explain it simply, we don't understand it well enough. Confucius also reminded us, "Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated." Today I am going to talk about simplicity, a core value which I think should be advocated in this modern and sophisticated world.

The world today is complicated and life is filled with frustration and anxiety. Life is not as simple as it used to be. Ironically, with the advent of new technology, we are never too close to each other although we are always chatting with families and friends through a variety of electronic gadgets. We complain that we are very busy but we can afford hours playing addictive smart phone games. Life is at a fast pace and everyone seems to be on the go. Why is life so stressful and painful? Are we making life too complicated as Confucius has said? Is simplicity the key to a happy and carefree life?

Very often people are offended when they are said to be simple. Being simple is usually considered to be equivalent to being a bumpkin. However, Leonardo, Einstein and other great people supported the notion of simplicity despite their achievements in the most complicated fields of study. They have pointed out that if we can find the root of the problem and simplify it, be it a maths question or a real-life predicament, it will never be a hard row to hoe. The experiences of these great people tell us that making things complex is never a judicious choice.

From my point of view, simplicity is not just about the pursuit of knowledge. Simplicity means focusing on what is important and letting go of the rest. It is an attitude, an approach to life. It can bring efficiency and most importantly, happiness.

Simplicity is actually an everyday concept. A clutter-free, plainly organized house is more comfortable than a house stuffed with items. A concise essay in simple language is easier to understand than one laden with difficult vocabulary and redundant phrases. A simple, plain, pretty young face looks more adorable than one with layers of colours and queer make-up.

So ladies and gentlemen, I would like to conclude my speech today with another quote from Albert Einstein: "Out of clutter, find simplicity." Simplicity is beauty. A simple life is always a beautiful life.