

敬愛的扶輪兄弟姐妹們：

1885年，倫敦泰晤士報刊載了一系列社論來紀念曾榮獲維多利亞皇后封為爵士的英國金融家及慈善家摩西斯·蒙地費爾 Moses Montefiore 的百歲誕辰。這些社論嘉許他的誠實、慷慨、及樂於幫助任何貧困的人。有一個故事尤其能反映出這幾點。

因為摩西斯是那個時代最有錢的人之一，有人就問爵士，他的身價有多少。面對這個沒禮貌的問題，他只短暫思考了一下就說出一個遠低於問話者預期的數字。當然，他的回答引起質疑；他的財產一定有那個數字的十倍！摩西斯爵士只是微笑著。「年輕人，」他回答，「你不是問我有多少財產。你是問我的身價值多少。因此我計算一下我今年捐了多少給慈善機構，那就是我給你的那個數字。你要知道，在生活上我們的身價不過是我們願意和其他人分享的而已。

我們在計算自己的價值時，是以擁有多少，還是以如何使用，來計算？當我們說每個人的價值一樣時，我們是否言行一致？我相信身為扶輪社員即意味著以不同的角度看待我們的所有資源。以我們所有的資源，我們所能選擇去做的最大善行是什麼？有哪些選擇最後將讓我們成為最有價值的人？

在扶輪，我們都知道世界上有許多地方都亟需幫助。我們都知道我們能透過扶輪基金會給予多少幫助。我們能改變生活，我們能恢復希望，我們能打造未來——如果我們選擇如此做的話。

在生活上，事事都是一種抉擇。我們能選擇對別人的需要幫助視若無睹，各人自掃門前雪，不管他人瓦上霜。我們也可以選擇超越地理距離、膚色、語言、衣著及文化，本著民吾同胞的精神，不忍見死不救。



My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

**I**n 1885, the London Times ran a series of editorials honoring the 100th birthday of Sir Moses Montefiore, the British financier and philanthropist knighted by Queen Victoria. The editorials commented on his honesty, his generosity, and his willingness to come to the aid of anyone in need. One story was particularly telling.

Someone once asked Sir Moses, one of the wealthiest men of his era, how much he was worth. In the face of such an ill-mannered inquiry, he merely paused for a moment's reflection before naming a figure – one that fell far short of his questioner's expectations. Naturally, it was met with an objection; surely he must be worth 10 times as much! Sir Moses merely smiled. "Young man," he replied, "you didn't ask me how much I own. You asked me how much I am worth. So I calculated how much I have given to charity this year, and that is the number I gave you. You see, in life we are worth only what we are willing to share with others."

When we calculate our own worth, do we think about it in terms of what we have, or how we use it? When we say that all human beings are of equal worth, do our actions follow our words?

I believe that being a Rotarian means looking at all of our resources differently. What is the most good that we could choose to do with what we have? What are the choices that will ultimately leave us the richest?

In Rotary, we are all aware of the great needs in so many parts of our world. And we all know how much we can do to help through our Rotary Foundation. We can change lives, we can restore hope, we can build futures – if we choose to.

In life, everything is a choice. We can choose to close our eyes to the needs of others, to keep what we have for ourselves, to declare the problems of others to be theirs alone. Or we can choose to look past distance, past color, past language and dress and culture, and see that people everywhere are just like us – and then refuse to walk away.



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