

Empire of the Sun——Nobody is an island

Is there anyone completely isolated from others in this world? The movie, *Empire of the Sun*, gave its answer.

In this movie, the little boy Jim was accidentally arrested into a concentration
5 camp after Japanese invaded Shanghai. But instead of yielding to fate, he kept
revolting against destiny and finally grew into a tough boy. Jim enjoyed his carefree
life living with his parents before the occupation. Even after the separation with his
parents, Jim came across Basie, who helped him went through the hardest life in the
10 concentration camp and gradually grew into a tenacious man. Jim also made friend
with an unfamiliar Japanese pilot. Their kindness to each other was pure and naïve,
far beyond the boundaries of language, race, civilization and life. In Jim's world, he
was never isolated from others. Their behavior and attitude influenced Jim either
positively or negatively. All of them helped Jim build his own world.

Besides Jim, all characters in this movie confirmed the fact that nobody is
15 isolated from others in this world. Basie fought for his own living using any methods
or tricks. As a selfish and snobbery man, he utilized others to achieve his goals. The
Japanese officer got mad several times because his dignity was violated or because his
army was defeated by the Americans. He punished foreigners captured by them
instead of digesting his anger alone. Jim's Japanese friend, however, is also an
20 individual in a society. He helped save Jim's life and generously shared his lemon
with Jim, although he was desperate because of failing to accomplish his lifelong
dream, flying on the sky and dying for Japan. They were unintentionally involved in
this cruel war. But even in the war, people were to interact with others whether
spiritually or physically. They were to support others and be supported by others in
25 their social life. They were to become a piece of the continent, a part of the main, but
not an island.

Nobody is an island, the movie answered.

“If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less”, “any man's death
diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind”, John Donne wrote in his famous
30 article *No Man is an Island*. No one can live a completely separated life, all of us need
others in different aspects, like friendship, affection, love, and so forth.

We need friendship, whether it is sincere or fake. True friendship is always pure
and fragile because it does not seek anything and does not depend on anything, and
false friendship will let you grow even if it hurts you or even tears apart you. Jim
35 survived from the Japanese officer's samurai sword with the help of his Japanese
friend and his Japanese friend re-acquire his aircraft model with the help of Jim. They

40 didn't ask for return after helping others, but the spiritual support strengthened the bound between them and allowed them to continue chasing their dreams, driving an airplane and surviving from this war. Bo Ya broke the strings and never play the guqin again after his bosom friend, Zhong Ziqi passed away. Liu Bei attacked Sun Quan for his worship brother Guan Yu's death. It was friendship that linked their fate together. And it was friendship that showing their brilliance.

45 We need love, whether personal or universal. A. J. Fickly, the owner of a bookstore, has lost everything, but found true love and finally got over his hardest time. "You shine because of love." Raymond Carver once said in her book *What are We Talking about When We Talk about Love*, "It seems that you have weakness and armor all of a sudden.". Individual love gives one power and comfort. As for universal love, it is both selfless and vast. Giving this love to a stranger and even your enemy is possible. Universal love is the central issue of peace and development of the world. 50 Everybody can benefit from this kind of love.

We are tightly combined with others from these aspects. We are living as a continent but not an island. People cannot live without society. Living in a society means interacting with people. Society will gradually forget those who aren't in any social relations. They can't get information as soon as possible, can't establish a social 55 supporting network, can't get living resources, can't learn life skills and can't realize self-worth in the social sense. When one in this status leave others, he will struggle. Time will be hard when he came across low mood because nobody is there waiting for his confiding. On the contrary, those who are in a social relation may easily dispel their inner misery, decrease pain, help themselves get over their hard time and enjoy 60 interacting with others. Of course, they will meet people who are kind, honest, humble, optimistic, tolerant and extrovert as well as those who are nosy, ungrateful, arrogant, deceitful, jealous and lonely. But they will learn how to handle every situation when time passes. From the process of interacting, one will make great progress in learning to live, to learn, to be awareness of his current circumstance, to 65 be conscious of himself, to promote his mind status. While these skills are much harder for isolated individuals to achieve.

No man in this world is an isolated island, not Jim, not Basie, not John, not Raymond, not you, either. If you feel lonely, stand up and go chasing for the continents. If you are related to a continent, cherish the current relationship. Just as 70 the old poetry says, no man is an island, entire of itself; but a piece of the continent, a part of the main.