

## Week 1 • Sem 2 “People”

I originally expected a smooth transition to this brand-new spring semester. But it seems that everything is going against me right now.

Confidence crisis, friendship breaks, inner friend circle disruptions... I could not sleep early every night, not because academics are that challenging, but because all those stuff related to **people**.

My heart is enduring a massive shock. I know those around me, or seeing this post, might be as well, but just allow me to speak what I feel.

### 1 My anthropophobic past

This chaotic situation is the exact outcome I would expect when I get too social, because I still am not that of a sophisticated enough person to deal with everything really smoothly - this had prompted me to concentrate on academics, rather than people in the past.

My experience is that, I somewhat would handle things without people better, be it problem-solving in mathematics, self-engaged activities and games, or planning and execution of everything on my agenda. Each of us is wired to respond differently, and correspondingly would end up with different decisions. Some are constructive but some are not; some are helpful but some are not; some would place value on you but some would not.

I am still scared of getting too close with everyone. My past was characterized by overwhelming insecurity and self-scrutiny, and that socially distinct isolated self that experienced most of the six years of secondary life alone, despite finding some brief, but unstable, periods of company. My insecurity made me pay a toll.

### 2 People are good but...

**People add uncertainty, which is something I don't desire.**

True, uncertainty could be really fascinating - think about the endless and unexpectedly uplifting opportunities one could enjoy by reaching out. Freshness. Loyalty. Being loved... *But that means one has to endure lots of risks.*

Sure, some risks are measurable and easily avoidable by preparing in advance. *But some are not.*

The trueness and opening up from others are really highly valuable and should be valued. *But the risk of losing your heart is something really, really heavy to take - often too heavy. And I hate this.*

### 3 Change in attitude

But then, somehow I got into such a business subject in UST. Yes, Qfin - iBankers, analysts, future voices of the financial markets, or traders that require tons of networking. I'm expected to socialize MUCH more. I am expected to be more outgoing - or I am *forced* to - otherwise I miss my opportunities, my future, and everything.

Truth be told, this is exactly different from my original approach of making friends much less aggressively (when someone said they wanted me to be more 隨緣, probs they didn't know I had a 隨緣 past when I just didn't grab the opportunities firmly enough). But I just need to overcome my inner resistance under such premises.

I have to come up with something to ensure I am acting in my best interest while **not harming others**. The best I could do is, to bring each other mutual benefits (be it academic support, emotional comfort, or seeing the hidden values within each other)

I wish to harness the power within each of us to make all of us better. And that's why I am fully embracing a somewhat more enthusiastic approach to meet new people - creating values.

#### **4 MY people, MY rules**

But as I run into reality, I find I am heavily constrained by time and space limitations. I need a tool to help me screen those who are suitable for me. **I set my own rules, my own criteria, and my own way.**

I add people in, I maintain, and I drop. I review, I reflect, and I re-add when there are favorable conditions. (I really hope those I've left would come back to my life one day... but I'm pretty sure they would have forgotten me as such a thought spawns in my mind) I invite them to collaborate, I share what I have, and I prioritize. I plan before I execute, I justify before I decide, and I estimate my risks with their behaviour. Those not following my rules would be out, unless they are that valuable enough for me and stay within my mind.

#### **5 Then why still mess up?**

But somehow, I messed up again this time.

Was I being too proactive, so that I brought overly high expectations from everyone? Was I being too sincere, so those I don't trust ended up trusting me? Were my criteria not selective enough, that my inner personal circle ended up being this chaotic with an overwhelming amount of new entrants and endless conflicts? Was I being too polite and kind to strangers, that I ended up being treated as a 'central warm air system'?

To attain greatness, one has to know their boundaries - and stick to their principles rigidly. I shall re-calibrate everything. People come and people leave - and I am hunting for those even better people that would light my life up. I hope I won't regret everyone of you I've met - people matter.