

You – Corruption, Greed And Decadence

By Amanda Lim Ying Qi

Watching the city fall, sorrows etched on my forehead as I nervously cracked my knuckles. From the corner of my eye, I see my neighbours shaking their heads with disapproval. A pale woman, tensed, her hands clammy. Distress written all over her parents' faces and there, I hear the wailing of a new-born baby. One obvious reason- the sole breadwinner and the man of the house is out of job. On the other end, a worker has cheated the company of a million dollars. Devastated we are as a country, all because of *you*- corruption, greed and decadence. I see *you*, the destroyer of human prosperity and the cause of poverty. I see *you*, the cause of betrayal of trust among us and the lead to crime.

Because of *you*, our government is limited when it comes to investing in productivity-enhancing areas. *You* diminish our chances of flourishing. *You* lead us to poverty. A city where people become homeless, where starvation and thirst occurs, what has our plight become? Stalls are closing down; my family members are going out of job. More people by the streets, begging for basic necessities to survive, this is what *you* have done to this city.

You lead us astray from our work, families and friends. We are no longer who we used to be. A little more uncertain, having more doubts. We are no longer as serious and taking much pride in our work. The quality of our services plunges, lower than ever. The employer more hot-headed, always shouting at us, and in his head, he plans to retrench us. Oh, and how useless he finds us. Not helping the company much, not helping the company to flourish once again. There, the chances of unemployment increase. *You* cause us to feel worried for the loss of our jobs. Waking up every morning, with dark eye circles, we go to work with the feeling of dread, all in the fear of being retrenched.

As stress takes the better of us, we succumb to illnesses. Our mental and physical health is not regularly monitored and the idea of staying healthy starts to be pushed away. Certainly, *you* have caused us to be so occupied that we take little notice of our wellbeing and health. We need cures but how can we find them because *you* exist? *You* cause the fail in our research for drugs and cures. Cancer, Diabetes, Aids, Ebola... the research and development is slowed down and lagging, all because of *you*.

We will start to disobey laws. The trust that was once built between us and the government will soon break. The respect and regard we have given our leaders will soon be gone. The faith in them, to be able to help our city succeed towards a better future diminishes. The economy, ethical values and justice will be threatened and money beats it all.

There, a youth, recklessly driving at top speed. He hears the wails of the police sirens as the police gestured for him to pull up by the roadside. The youth swiftly stuffed some blue notes into the policeman's pocket and sped off.

Horrified, terrified I am... What has happened to our plight? Greed, the jealousy and the 'wanting of more' grows in us. As we progress higher the ladder, we start to greed for more. A rich will greed for more money while the poor yearns to earn a cent.

I want to grow up to be a CPIB officer, bringing offenders to justice. I will reach out to others through platforms such as social media to educate the public and spread awareness against corruption.

Social media is such a powerful tool that we can tap on. I will speak up for the city by joining group discussions on ways to develop a corruption-free nation and finding ways of solving corruption, greed and decadence.

I can actively encourage others to appoint righteous leaders in this state of crisis. Leaders themselves, who are not corrupted, can step up to help shape our city into a corruption-free one.

Most importantly, I would encourage others to first start with themselves. If I were to put a stop to *you*, I must also do my part by being a good role model to others. Abiding by the law with integrity, is what I have to show to others as a stepping stone which will then hence shape and influence others to follow after my footsteps.

Yes, *you* have caused the outrages at home. *You* have taken away my family members' jobs. *You* have caused my best friend to go home and cry everyday because her parents' stall is closing down. These all happen, because of *you*.

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