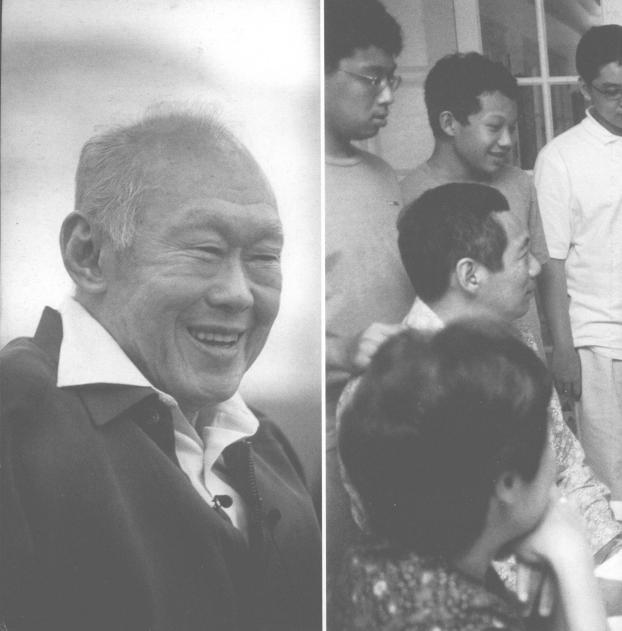


80 Quotes from a Life

N andrew Long product











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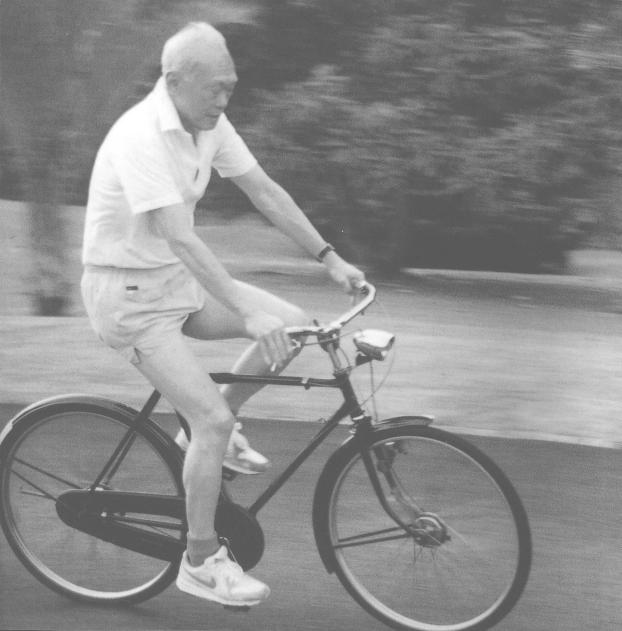
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impossible impossible impossible

## Life is an Adventure

You begin your journey not knowing where it will take you. You have plans, you have dreams, but every now and again you have to take uncharted roads, face impassable mountains, cross, treacherous fivers, be blocked

by landslides and earthquakes. That's the way my life has been for the last 80 years.

As a student at Raffles Institution I planned to win a scholarship to go to England and become a lawyer. But those plans were violently disrupted

my wife. That was the happiest time in my life.

I never planned to go into politics. But my years in London and the Japanese occupation

when Singapore fell to the Japanese on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1942. There followed three and a

half years of brutal Japanese occupation, which taught me more

than any university could have.
They were unforgettable lessons

on the meaning of power and the

nature of people and nations.

During the occupation, with time

on my hands, I also began courting

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changed my view of the world. I decided that we should govern ourselves, and that's why we formed the PAP. In 1959 the PAP won the general election and I became Prime Minister of a self-

governing Singapore. In 1963 we joined Malaysia, in 1965 we were asked to leave—and then the rest was just trying to make Singapore work. And that's the history of Singapore, in which I played a part.

I'm grateful that I got where I am, happy that I've made a contribution to many people, and reassured that I have helped select /d/team/of people who can keep Singapore going.

I never expected to live till 80, so I'm glad to be alive, relatively healthy and all in one piece. I look at all my old friends, mycontemporaries, and I'm struck by how differently they have done. It's the luck of the draw.

At the end of the day, all I have to cherish are human relationships. Your worldly wealth you can't take away with you, your life has been lived. It is the friends you have made, your family ties, which sustain your spirit with a certain warmth and comfort.

Could I have lived my life differently? That's a parlour game, you know. At each stage, it is a crossroads. You take the road, you have changed direction, you proceed. There is no turning back. If I had continued as a lawyer, for instance, and if some idiot was in charge of Singapore, then all lawyers would be broke anyway.

So you cannot say that you planned your whole life. And that's why I feel life is a great adventure: exciting, unpredictable, and at times exhilarating. What is crucial is never to lose that joie de vivre, that zest for life, to watch the sun go down and wake up to a new day rested and refreshed after a good night.

[ulw/m

## 变幻无穷的人生

我们踏上人生旅途时,前途充满着未知数。我们有的是计划、梦想,但是往往得走迂回曲折的道路,对着难越的关山兴叹,抢渡险恶的急流,或被土崩和地震阻挡征途。我就是这样度过了80年。

就读莱佛士书院时,我的心愿 是获得一份到英国深造的奖学金, 然后成为律师。不料,我的梦想很快 落了空。1942年2月15日,日军占 领了新加坡。从那天起,这个小岛经 历了日军三年半的残暴统治,让我 上了人生难忘的一课,使我深深体 会到权力的意义,也使我认识到民 族性和国民性是怎么一回事。世上 没有一所大学能够教导这么宝贵的 一课。在日治时期,我空闲得很,便 开始追求我的妻子,那是我一生最 快乐的日子。

我从没打算要从政,但在伦敦和日治时期的经历改变了我的世界观。我深深感到我们应该争取自治,于是我们创立了人民行动党。1959年,人民行动党赢得了大选,新加坡成为自治邦,我当了总理。1963年,我们加入马来西亚,1965年,我们被逐出马来西亚,接下来就是致力于确保新加坡的生存。这就是新加坡的历史,我参与了这段历史。

我庆幸能有今日,并为自己能 为广大人群的幸福尽一份力而感到 高兴。此外,我协助挑选了一批治国 良材,使国家能继续繁荣昌盛,这使 我感到放心。 我从未想到会活到80岁,对自己现在还活着,而且相当健康,身心完好,感到心满意足。一些老朋友和同辈的境况天差地别,使我深有感触。

终究而言,我觉得人生最珍贵的是人与人之间的情谊。荣华富贵是身外物,生不带来,死不带去,唯有亲情和友情能持续不断地温暖并慰藉我们的心灵。

如果从头再来,我的人生旅程会有所不同吗?其实,人生有如一场要不断作出抉择的游戏。每到一个阶段,就必须作出抉择。选择了一条道路,改变了方向,就必须向前走,不能再回头。假设我当年选择继

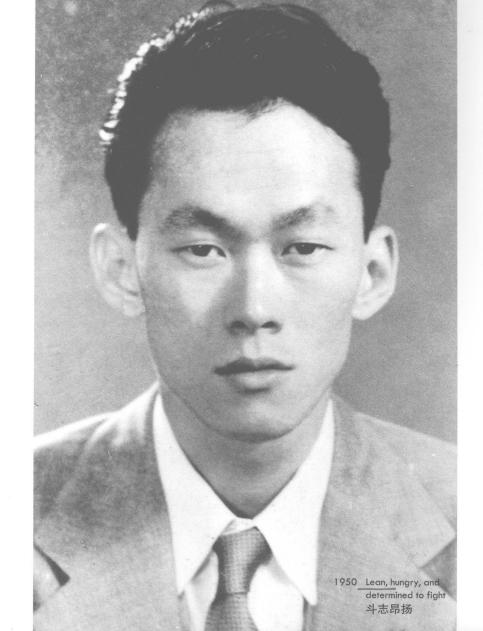


Playing Chinese Chess with Hsien Yang 同次子显扬下象棋

续当我的律师,并且假设新加坡是 由一群蠢材当权,那么所有的律师 必定一筹莫展,消沉没落。

换言之,人的一生是无法全盘 计划好的。因此,我觉得人生变幻无 穷:紧张刺激,充满变数,有时让人 振奋不已。重要的是,我们不应失去 对生命的热爱。观赏日落之后,要好 好睡一觉,恢复精力,醒来之后又迎 来新的一天。

李九雅



## On Himself 个人篇

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