

To my 25th birthday: A 10-year questionnaire

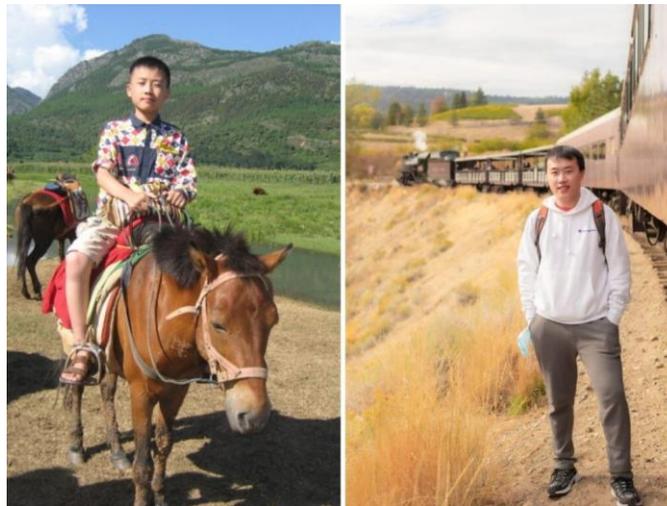
I come across a 10-year questionnaire on [Da Fa Jian Zhi's blog](#) the other day and thought it would be a perfect blog content writing idea since I have been thinking about ways to commemorate my 25th birthday for a while. I felt these 10 questions provided by the original author [COSMO](#) would suit perfectly for my 25th birthday as a life summary. If you have been reading this content, I would encourage you to answer these questions as well.

Q1: Use no more than 3 sentences to describe your recent situation

- I'm about to complete my [MBA studies](#) (I started in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic)
- I received the first job offer in my life (Probably the best gift for my 25th birthday)
- This is the 6th year I've been living in [Canada](#) (I arrived in 2015 to [seek a bachelor's degree](#))

Q2: Share the most unforgettable moments in the past 10 years

10 years ago, I was 15. 10 years later, I am now 25.



10 years ago I was in junior high, 10 years later I am almost about to finish my master's degree.



What I have been striving for in the past 10 years did not change, and even I'm surprised that I could be holding on to it for this long. I guess it must have been something I truly love.



10 years ago, I was helping my junior high teachers to organize the “Super Star” campus singing competition. 10 years later, I am still planning and hosting events at Thompson Rivers University. I have once asked myself “why do I love planning events so much?” Originally, I was enjoying the applause from the people. However, now I have realized the true purpose of my passion, which is to provide a stage for people to achieve their dreams.

Q3: Do you think you have changed a bit compared to 10 years ago?



10 years ago, although I was naïve, I had dreams in my mind; 10 years ago, although I was young, I was able to achieve things. Today, I still hold dreams that I had 10 years ago – to help people to achieve their dreams, and I realize my value through helping them.

Q4: Have you been staying in contact with people from 10 years ago?

I'd have to admit that one of the things I regret is that I was not keeping contact with people from 10 years ago. They are probably the most important groups of people that helped me, encouraged me, and followed me to go on in this path. Without help from them, things would be different today.



Ms. Fang, my junior high teacher once said to me “hope is always there, but you can say it is never there. This just like the road on the ground, originally there is no road, but when many people walk on it, it becomes a road.” This quote comes from Lu Xun’s hometown, and I can still remember this quote freshly. This quote provided me energy to continue chasing my dream fearlessly.

Q5: Has your career path changed compared to your original plan?

I never thought about what I would do in future. And I did not know what types of job would suit me either. But I know where I will end. Kaifu Li has one quote that I feel strongly connected to. He said the value of a person does not come from what he has gained from this world. Money, fortune, position, honour. None of that matters and none of that will maximize your value. The only thing that does is what you have created for this world, and what you have left.

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You may read the original content through <https://denghaonan.com/blog/1851/>.



If I say, there is something I want to create for this world, like Steve Jobs, working while holding the dream to change the world, may not be foreseeable, at least not now. I planned to start and stretch to where I could reach, with dedication, to do things that I think may change the world. And this is exactly why I love stages so much. Not only because I would be lit up by those spotlights, but to use those spotlights to light up others.

Q6: Has the relation with parents changed over the 10 years?

It's been 2 years that I haven't travelled back to China since the COVID-19 pandemic started.



On my 25th birthday, I want to appreciate my mom and her dedication.

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Q7: What is your attitude towards the family?

I think this question is probably too early for me to answer. I would leave it for later.

Q8: Would like to travel back 10 years?

I did not know much 10 years ago, though I was naïve, I was fearless. Thanks to myself 10 years ago, and things I have done right and wrong.

Q9: Are you afraid of getting old?

Everyone is supposed to be afraid of getting old. But I think one quote from the movie "[Tuck Everlasting](#)" addresses this question perfectly.

"Don't be afraid of death; be afraid of un-lived life. You don't have to live forever; you just have to live." By [Natalie Babbitt](#).

Q10: What do you think is the most important thing in one's life?

"Have courage, and be kind!"