

Dear Fang Tian:

I am so glad to receive and read your letter. I hope that you will keep up with your good work at school, studying harder and getting better grades. I also hope that you will become stronger mentally. Do not feel sad about and/or sorry for yourself when someone criticizes about your physical deformities.

No one can choose or control one's outer appearance. However, we have better controls over our inner selves. Only idiots will focus on things that are not controllable and ignore things that are controllable to us. People usually are not able to understand this until they reach 20-30 years of age. However, I believe that you understand this.

Do you know, Fang Tian? I was born with short arms that lack wrists and thumbs (see my photos on next page). However, I am not a handicap/disabled person. People who know me would tell you that. Liu Guozheng would tell you that (his wife and I played table tennis when they were in the United States). Lu Yuansheng and Liang Geliang would tell you that (I drove them around when they were in the United States). [Note: Liu Guozheng, Lu Yuansheng and Liang Geliang are celebrities in China. You can google them]. All of my students would tell you that. I am capable of doing things that I need to and want to do. Sometimes I do more and better than others. I am not a disabled person.

If you care too much about what others will think of you, often you forget about your own thinking. We can't choose or avoid having our physical deformities. However, we have to attribute our mental obstacles to our thinking. From others' point of views, we are either disabled or extraordinary. I hope that you can turn alienations from others into energies that help push you for betterments in your life. Next time, when someone is staring at your leg, you should think that they are reminding you: "Fang Tian, Fang Tian. Are you doing your best and studying harder? Are you going to become a disabled or an extraordinary person in the future?"

I hope you have a better control of your temper. Study harder in math and geography.

Last, let's remind ourselves

"Only if you can stand the hardest hardships can you rise in society"  
"To enjoy a grander sight, climb to a greater height"

TJ Wang (a friend who cares about you)  
2012.2.19



With Liu Guozheng (in U.S.)



2011 Paralympics



With Zhang Yining (in U.S.)



2011 US-China Ping-Pong Diplomacy 40-year Anniversary (in U.S.)