

**HARRIET KWOK 3U**  
**PUBLIC SPEAKING SOLO CHAMPION**  
**64<sup>TH</sup> HONG KONG SCHOOLS SPEECH FESTIVAL (ENGLISH)**

Thank you, everyone, for inviting me to your youth club function today. I'm Harriet Kwok, a past member and practicing accountant in Hong Kong.

Let's get this straight. We can't travel back in time. A ridiculous concept. Science discards it as fiction. But, if ... If I could, I would take a trip back to the Tang dynasty thousand years ago.

You may think, oh Harriet, you must love history so much that you want to go back to the highest point of Chinese civilization. Well, that's not really true. For you who have studied Chinese history, you may remember a man called Guo Zi Yi. In Hong Kong, you learned this name in Form 2 – and he's my ancestor.

It's hard to believe that a name that I've heard since childhood in my own home appears in my history textbook! And his information was in six languages on Wikipedia! If I could, I would travel back to the Tang dynasty to meet Guo Zi Yi, to discover exactly he was.

According to Wikipedia, Guo Ziyi, formally Prince Zhongwu of a place called Fenyang, was a general during the Tang Dynasty who ended the An Shi Rebellion. According to my grandfather, he was one of the greatest generals in Chinese history. He was immortalized in Chinese mythology as the God of Wealth and Happiness after his death.

Imagine how proud I am when I hear that. I'm very proud to be one of his offspring, to be a "Kwok"! I am the 45<sup>th</sup> generation to follow this man. My grandparents still worship him every traditional Chinese festival such as New Year. There are many memorial societies that dedicate their work Guo Ziyi.

I would love to meet this man. I would try to find out about simple things ... What time did he wake up. Before lunch, what sort of things did he do? What did he like to do in his free time? What he humorous? Serious? Loving? Dreamy? Maybe I could go back and have a nice dinner with him. I would ask him lots of questions to get lots of answers. Maybe I would discover why he was so special. I would ask him what he thought the future of China would be like. Then I could have a drink of his favorite tea with him.

If I could travel back in time, I would be very, very happy to find out about such an important ancestor of mine: Guo Ziyi. You never know. Maybe he'd find me very interesting too!