

From Bad to Good

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Jeffery is an ordinary 18-year-old boy who is now in Form 6 and his academic results are good. However, his family's finances are not good. His father, John, is a single father and he is not well-educated so there are only very few jobs that he can do. He is a small stall owner that sells snacks like fish balls and rice noodle rolls at Temple Street Market. Jeffery will go to help his father after school. The money they earn every day is just sufficient for their daily expenses. However, they are often charged a 'protection fee' by the gangsters. The gangsters will beat them and swear at them if they do not pay the fee that they charge. Unfortunately, most of the money they earn that day will be collected.

One day, the gangsters came again. 'You should know what to do,' said one of the gangsters. Jeffery couldn't endure this anymore so he came forward and yelled loudly, 'We won't pay! You don't deserve it! We won't be afraid of you!' The gangster replied angrily, 'Good. Very good. Bro, go get some tools. It's time to teach them a lesson.' 'You...Bully the weak!' said John. At the same time, the gangsters ran back with hammers and knives. Jeffery and John didn't know what to do and they felt hopeless. 'Stop!' A male voice came like an angel's singing. The man seemed to have a strong background as when the gangsters saw him, they ran away as fast as a cheetah. John and Jeffery saw him and said, 'Thank you so much. But why are they so afraid of you?'

'No need to thank me. Nice to meet you guys. My name is Keith. I was once their leader. I was the strongest and the wisest. I was very wealthy thanks to

the 'protection fee'. But you guess what? My life totally changed last year. As a leader, I didn't have to collect the money myself. One day, I decided to check on their work. I saw a cruel scene. They charged an old lady but the old lady refused to pay. They went mad and kept beating the old lady. Fortunately, I stopped them. After I knew what they had done, I chose to leave them and convinced them to stop their violent behavior. Since that day, I started to help hardworking people like you as my own redemption. Although I have helped so many people, I still regret what I did when I was young.' said Keith.

'I could not believe that there's such a meaningful story behind you,' said John kindly. Jeffery seconded, 'You do not need to feel so much regret. The past is the past. Besides, no one is perfect. We are so glad to meet a friend like you.' John patted Keith's shoulder to show his support.

Since then, Keith has become good friends with John and Jeffrey. Jeffery was inspired by Keith's story. Although it is impossible to stop all of the gangsters, there should be more that he can do to help other stall owners. So he is determined to establish a non-profit organization to protect the stall owners from the gangsters after he graduates from university.

Thanks to these good people, our society has become more harmonious. Maybe things that we can do are very little, but 'a gorgeous building is not built by a single brick.' If all of us do more, I'm sure that Hong Kong will become better and better.