

# FOREWORD

This book is an ingenious plea for life. It is a suggestive book on a subject that plays an important role in people's lives, as it is well known that we can all have events that truncate our expectations in life, and whether we are more or less happy depends on how we face these situations.

This is more relevant nowadays when, thanks to scientific progress, we might think that we have everything under control and, on the other hand, not understand the suffering of others, falling into indifference. Both perspectives are addressed in the work of professor Yi-Ching and doctor Cheng: on the one hand, that of the patient (embodied by Yu-Chen, Wei-ning and Huang Wei-ning) and, on the other, that of the doctor who heals (embodied by doctor Cheng). The book has a double objective: to show the positive attitude of the patient who suffers from an incurable disease –the acceptance of their situation that does not imply a “paralysis”– and the positive attitude of the doctor who heals –that over the bodies sees souls–.

The technique can be learned, it is within the reach of average intelligences and it is offered in schools and universities: it only requires the effort of study and practice. Being a sensitive person can also be learned. But, in this case, to achieve this it is required not to be centered on oneself but to “*put oneself in the shoes of the other*”, exercising kindness in concrete actions and understanding the true value of the human person.

It is unavoidable then to ask oneself: where do we have our heart set? What are the expectations of our life?

Let us consider, as an exercise in ethical imagination, the episode that Homer tells us in the *Odyssey*. Ulysses is on the island of Ogygia hosted by the nymph Calypso, who offers him immortality and eternal youth if he stays with her. But Ulysses, longing for his wife Penelope and her home in Ithaca, rejects the offer.

We are facing two ways of understanding life: aiming to approximate “divine ideals”, or accepting our human condition. Which is more accurate? What is the one that produces the greatest happiness in the human person? What is the most typical of a good doctor? And the most sensible for a person who is sick? In the chapters of the book, the authors, in a very suggestive way, solve this question with examples that the reader will be able to ponder and reflect on.

I would like to recommend “*Wounded: A Touching Journey of Love and Healing*”, in the certainty that reading it will help a wide circle of readers to think about the value of human life, and to form an opinion on the importance of the human factor in care of patients with incurable diseases.

A conclusion that emerges from reading the book, and which I think is important to highlight, consists in the confirmation that science, good science, needs the use of a good actor: a person who takes into account the human factor, the spirituality of people. I hope that reading of it will constitute an invitation to personally reflect on the different situations that appear throughout these pages.

It only remains for me to thank the authors of the book Dr. Yi-Ching and Dr. Vheng for the effort they have put into expressing clearly the message they transmit to us.