

# SINGAPORE TREASURES

unusual stories, extraordinary memories, special encounters, just another unique day in Singapore

## The 3 P's or Taxi driver Philosophies

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I was on my way from Arab Street to Empress Place together with my parents. Due to a touch of faith (I guess) we ended up in a taxi driven by a philosopher in disguise who would totally change our state of mind that day.

Mr W, the taxi driver in question, was a cheery fellow, and loud too! After every sentence he would frantically clap his hands and burst out in laughter. A thunderboltlike, rolling laughter that nearly made me jump from my seat the first time!

While we started out with some polite chitchatting about the weather and a few naïve inquiries about the trails and tribulations of taxi driving life, he profoundly proclaimed in his bombastic voice that leading a happy life was all about the 3 P's. "Think Positive, Act Positive, Be Positive."



"Whatever hurdle you encounter in life, be it at work, in your marriage or even a financial crisis, if you approach the situation in a positive way your days will be filled with happiness."

Mr W, a beaming example of his own philosophy, roared with laughter and clapped his hands again after this speech, giving us all the shivers.

And even though it sounds so ridiculously simple that it is almost too cliché, he couldn't be more right. How many of us are actually happy? Look around you and listen, I bet the majority of the people around you are always complaining about the things they don't have instead of being happy about the positive things they do have? It's all in the mind.

After nearly 2 years in Singapore I've encountered quite a few shiny happy people that clearly embrace this philosophy. A lot more than compared to the West so it seems, this does make me wonder, do Asian people have a bigger talent for happiness or is it just their pragmatic attitude that helps them cope better with setbacks and hardship?

For example the old guy that works as a cleaner in my apartment block. He's always so upbeat and cheerful, while I really can't imagine how mopping floors can make you that happy. Is it really all in the mind? Am I the one that's judging wrongly here? Mr W sure got us thinking!

For good measure (and because we still hadn't reached our destination) Mr W continued his life lessons 101 and made us guess which are the 3 C's that make for a good marriage. After some failed guesses on our side he apparently decided it was time to enlighten us and share his 3 C's: Care for each other, Be Committed and Communicate.

For whatever it's worth, there must be some truth in the matter, because Mr W had been happily married for over 30 years.

We'd now reached Empress Place and after paying him the \$5 taxi fee, we happily parted. Positively spirited for at least the rest of the day.