My Library. My Stage to Life

Ever since the very first day I set foot in Taiwan it has always been rather hard to find exactly what I am looking for. I believe most foreigners here share the same particular predicament, and some I believe never find a solution to this problem. Every person needs a comfort zone, a place where he/she can break away from the harsh reality of dealing with the overwhelming complexity of simply going to school. To further add to this dilemma some of us find ourselves living in Gui Shan which is simply just too far away from the more vibrant Taipei. Once a week on a Thursday I have three hours in the afternoon in which I have to wait for my next class to start. For three hours a week I am completely in content as I get to do two things that I have been unable to do for almost two years.

My father once placed a book in my hand named “The Fountainhead”. This classic novel has been one of the most influential fixations in my life and I would probably think in a completely different manner should I have never come across it. Ayn Rand, the author of this novel, had also written another after the success of “The Fountainhead”. I have been dying to get my hands on “Atlas Shrugged”, and I got my wish three weeks ago when I found it in Ming Chuan Library’s western books section located on the fourth floor.

So as, they are as simple as can come. Most of us never even realise how great sofas are able to make life. Being a not so fortunate student has given me a deeper understanding of the smaller things in life. It is quite shocking how expensive sofas can be and for a student it is almost certainly impossible to afford one. I have not been able to just sit down and relax on a sofa for a very long time. However, located in the middle of the Ming Chuan Library is a set of four sofas.

Every Thursday afternoon I blissfully wonder up to the western books section to one of the back rows where the copy of “Atlas Shrugged” can be found. I again do the same as I make my way back down the stairs where, with all luck on my side, I usually find an open sofa where I can continue reading my book. There is however more to the library that just sitting down reading. As I spent more and more time it became clear that there is something special about the library, a kind of feeling that you are not alone. The kind of place where people go to not only understand a particular subject or topic, but to understand a little bit more about themselves. A place where everybody are experiencing the same kind of feeling, as most of us are going there to learn something new. Sitting there on the sofas is like standing on a stage where one could watch how people think, interact, and function as a whole. It is as if being merely being there has added to some kind of mutual understanding.

The Ming Chuan Library is a place where the whole world is set before you. An Infinite amount of information within a moment’s reach. But as I have come to learn it is far more than that. It is a place where I can better understand myself and the
people who find themselves here with me. We are here for four years, I suppose that it not such a bad idea to just reach out.