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Economic institutes and organizations around the world predict that China will become the world's largest economy around 2020. China is no longer a country that we can afford to ignore. The time is coming when we will have to learn not only about doing business in China, but also about China s market, history, culture, and people. But unfortunately, China is not very accessible to foreigners. Because of their unique communication style, Chinese people rarely show their true colors. Particularly for

Westerners, who come from societies that emphasize efficiency and transparency, China, a culture and society that prioritizes human relationships and saving face, can feel like a riddle wrapped in an enigma. There are already plenty of books about China written by Americans and Europeans, someone may point out: Why do we need yet another book, and one written by a Korean at that? When the differences between two groups trying to communicate with each other are too great, misunderstandings are likely to arise, with potentially negative consequences. In such cases, it is important to have a mediator who can help the two sides relate to and understand each other. I believe Koreans are best equipped to fulfill this mediator role to help build trust between China and the United States, as well as between China and other Western countries.

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All of the world's religions refer to death in some way. Everyone is somewhat familiar with stories about where we go or what happens to us after death. From an early age, we have all heard stories of heaven or hell or some other version of

paradise. Many of us believed such stories, and a great number of us still do. When considering that such stories manage to persist in modern times, an age of science and logic, we can be sure that death is an issue to which humans attach great importance.

In a sense, the idea of an afterlife can be a great source of comfort to those whose death is imminent, as well as to their loved ones. Those who have led especially difficult lives can look forward to a more pleasant world, while those who have enjoyed happiness and abundance have the chance to experience more good fortune. To those left behind, the idea of an afterlife presents the chance to meet a loved one again.

We may not be conscious of it, but such hopes and expectations stay with us throughout our lives. If such an afterlife does exist, then there is no reason to avoid or fear death. Moreover, if we believe that another life awaits us, then we would believe that we are only separated from our loved ones temporarily before being reunited with them later on.

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