

21. Ms Sayuki Kong - Other Occupations – Cake Baker

I did not start my career in this field

I used to be an accountant

I liked that industry when I was studying

But when it came to work

There is a big difference between what you have to face and what you study

Apart from the textbook knowledge

There are many things to be handled in reality

So I started to lose the passion

This was not what I want in my life

Since I always like baking

I also like cookery and artistic creation

So I decided to be brave and

Left the accounting industry

To search for new direction

At that time, cake baking was not my first thought

It took a while before I figured out what I could do

I used to think about doing DIY

Filming YouTube videos

Or joining those emerging industries

Eventually I found that all of these were not my direction

I have been good at cake baking ever since I was little

So I started this cake workshop

Actually, my main duty now is to teach students making decorative cream cakes

That is Korean decorative cakes

This is a popular trend in these few years

We would also make some cake decorations

Such as sugar flower on a wedding cake

Or holding some small-scale cake workshops
For adults to participate
We seldom provide courses for children
Also, my working hour depends on whether I have classes
For example, since it is now Mid-Autumn Festival
There are many people applying for classes in one day
There might be two or three classes in a day
But sometimes during off-season
My life can be much more relaxing
I think this is life
So I am quite happy about working in this industry
That is looking after the students
It is not an easy task
I am not old
But I am not young either
I am in the middle
Many students might be older than me
How can I make myself sound convincing?
How can I let them listen to me?
This will be relatively difficult
Since some people might think that
You look young
And inexperienced
So it would be difficult
Also, it is the skill of making cream decoration
How to be creative
It is challenging
Since you are not the only one teaching this in the world

There are other challengers and competitors
So this would push me to be more creative
I need to think about whether there are new things
How to compete with other industries
How to be outstanding among the other competitors
This is the direction we are seeking constantly and in the future
Since the trend is ever-changing
I am delighted to work in this creative field
Since there is no limit in the field
This gives me a feeling of joy
All my happiness and satisfaction come from my students
I used to operate an online store before
I only sold cakes
But teaching students makes me happier than only selling cakes
First, there can be a lot of interaction and communication among people
After all the students left
Of course you are their teacher during class
But they will still treat you as a teacher after class
Ask you some questions
They trust you
And even come back for classes again
This feeling gives me the sense of success
If they are willing to come back
That means they recognise your ability
So I think this feeling is the best
Also there are some students who are close to me
When they heard that I was going to learn new skills in Korea
They would say

“Go ahead! Go ahead! I would sign up your courses after you come back”

This is a feeling of trust

This feeling is indescribable

This kind of trust is the sense of achievement that I found in this job

To be honest

The biggest pressure comes from the reality

Which includes paying rent, salary, daily expenses and meals

The basic cost is to pay for living even if you don't pay for rent

In the first month

I didn't have any students

Actually I can't say there wasn't

But there were only one or two students

I had trouble sleeping at that time

Since the rent cost more than ten thousand dollars

Even if you don't count in your own salary, you still need to pay the rent

It gave me a lot of pressure

However, I knew that I have many friends

Who came from different fields

At first I relied on asking friends

What should I do?

Releasing my emotions to them

I didn't expect they would help

But they did give me some ideas

Like advertising on Facebook

Or some other methods

Since my workshop is in an industrial building

It is difficult for people to reach

You must listen to others' opinions

What you can see is only one side of the whole picture
While the others can see the other side of it
You can start learning after listening to their opinions
The learning process was not easy
I have never done marketing in my life
I have never studied the knowledge of marketing before
What I had learnt in the university is very superficial
They are not practical at all
I spent a long time
Editing videos and advertising
I also learnt who your target customers are
How to differentiate your target
These are all challenging
And you have to learn in a limited time
But in the end, the problem can be solved
After posting the advertisement
There are people who appreciate your work and come to take a course
Your life will become more fruitful
Since you are not the one who only knows the shallow concepts
You are no longer a teacher who only teaches to make Korean decorative cake
You are really an owner of your business now
You need to do everything by yourself
Even cleaning the toilet
The process is interesting
It makes you feel complete
But not simply working and finishing these tasks
For future development
I also hope that I can continue to work on creating new things

Such as products that are related to flowers
Since I really like flowers
For example, dried flowers or fresh flowers
I used to go to the flower market when I was a student
When people went shopping at H&M
I went to the flower market
Looking at flowers
I hope I can make my products more authentic
I will attend courses in Korea for further studies
I also hope to engage in some competitions
Try to challenge myself
And gain more recognitions
But the most important thing is to be yourself
Be a teacher who is completely capable of teaching
I hope the students would not just simply leave
After a lesson
Then I am not part of your life
I am only a passerby
I hope that they will think of me
When they have met me for a long time
When they start their own business
I can become their career ladder
I can help them
When they ask me
I can share my own experience
This is the most important thing
It took me a lot of courage and determination
To start this company

I hope and I support everyone to live their own life
It doesn't matter even if you are my competitor
There is always healthy competition
It will have good influence on me
So I support those who start their own business
In the future, apart from doing my job
I would also support people to start their business
Be themselves happily and live their lives
But not only going to work and leaving work
Repeating this day by day, year by year
And forgetting what life is
I hope that everyone can know what life is
The most important thing is
If you are interested in this industry
You cannot be afraid
You cannot be afraid of failure
If you are very young
If you do what you want when you have just graduated
It would be better than discovering what you don't want to do and start over when you are forty
years old
Such sacrifice is too much
So I think that it is better to do it when you are still young
It doesn't matter even if you change your career field like me at thirty
The most important thing is to step out of your comfort zone
Actually, there is a lot of burden in life
To be honest
There may be the burden from your family
Friends or even your self-esteem
After studying for a long time

And not working in the field that we studied
But I think that I did not realise what life is
Until I did that
Because you are doing what you like but not what people wish you to do
So you must not be afraid
Be courageous and try doing what you want
There is nothing you can't do
Accept your failure
You can start and try again
You still have time
But if you have to start it over when you are sixty years old
It would be harder
It would be more difficult, so it is the best to try when you are still young