

## Lovers' Path

On the tropical island of Hainan, there is a paradise. It is TSIMF, a mathematical paradise for mathematicians. Inside TSIMF, there is a new path, a path for lovers of mathematics.



On December 18, 2018, this new path was unveiled during the Master Lectures.

When one goes down the hill, passes the fruit trees planted by the Master lecturers, and makes a left turn, one enters the Lovers' Path.

On the right, one sees the valley of mangoes, and on the left, one can get a glimpse of the main building of TSIMF through the lush foliage.

What can people do on this path? What can they feel?

They can talk and share ideas, and feel the joy. The path may be small, but it can carry many happy people.

They can enjoy the quietness and the view for a single person or a few more.

The love for mathematics is very similar to the romantic love. When two lovers are together, we have an inexhaustible list of things to talk and share: their past, present and future. When two mathematicians are together, they will also use their time well to exchange ideas and stimulate each other.

When one lover is alone, he or she will think of the other incessantly. This peaceful path and the hills can remind their past love, things they have done and places they have been to.

This lover's path is good for both lovers of mathematics and lovers in the ordinary sense. When a Hong Kong TV station shot a documentary about Prof. Shing-Tung Yau, they interviewed his long time friend, Prof. S.Y. Cheng, and asked him to explain Yau's approach to mathematics and hence his secret of success. Cheng said that Yau's approach to mathematics is the same as his approach to courting his wife, and it consists of four steps:





- (1) Find the right target.
- (2) Do not be afraid and have the courage to pursue your goal.
- (3) Be persistent and don't give up easily.
- (4) Good skill of communication.

How relevant and crucial these steps are!

In this big world of billions of people, how do you find your true love, or the person who is worth your love? The fate is only one factor. It also takes your effort to create chances and find the person.

In mathematics, finding a good problem is essential. Finding a right problem is half done. Solving a bad problem may not take less work.

Once you have found the person of your life, you might feel hopeless due to many things. If you think that there is no hope, then there is indeed no chance of success. Keeping the hope alive takes courage too.

Similarly, in mathematics, a beautiful problem seems very attractive, but it might be totally out of reach by the current techniques and theories. Have faith and be confident!



Nothing good in life comes easily. The key point is to keep on trying and never give up. Think of all means to achieve the goals. Struggle in love life and mathematics makes them both sweeter and more special.

Love should be expressed clearly and frequently. Who does not want to hear sweet words from a sweetheart and their longing for you? So is mathematics. Which mathematician does not want to share their favorite theorem or theory frequently and widely?



This Lovers' path fits all times. In the morning, when the first ray comes out, one can look into the distance in the east, looking forward to seeing the loved ones, or a fruitful day filled with mathematics.

In the evening, when the Sun is setting down, one can look at the West, thinking over the time you have spent with your loved ones, or what you have proved in mathematics.

When the night falls, the light dots the path and leads one to move on. Maybe this is the best time for lovers to express their love.

This Lovers' path also fit all moods. When one feels lonely, one can sit at a bench and merge the

memories of the loved ones with the quiet and pleasant environment. One can think of the future, which will come and be good. In mathematics, both talking to others and thinking alone are important. Taking an easy stroll on this path and let one's thoughts spread over the green hills can help. New ideas may spring up.



When one feels happy, one can quickly walk on this smooth path. All difficulties have disappeared, and one can enjoy the victory moment.

In conclusion, this Lovers' path is for a true lover, someone who believes in love and wants love, be it the romantic love or the love for mathematics. It is an ideal place for one to take a walk with your true love, or thinking of who and what you really love when you talk a walk. The beauty of the place can enhance the beauty of love.

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