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## Hans... When I First Met Patrick

I love going to China. I almost *never* talk to the person next to me on the flight—or any flights in general. But sitting next to me on the upper deck of that 747 was an interesting young man who asked me why I was flying over to Beijing. “I am an author and am doing lectures on leadership. The Chinese are hungry to learn about our management and leadership styles that are very different than theirs.” William who sat next to me told me that he was flying over with a group of students that were going to Beijing to complete an MBA course for their master’s degrees. He wanted to know about my books, and thanks to Wi-Fi on airplanes; he pulled up Amazon and browsed through my titles.



The fun really started when his friend Patrick came up to join us on the upper deck. We really got animated and talked for a long time about leadership and generational views on the topic. What struck me from the outset about Patrick, that I really liked, was his passion for learning and his respect for my generation. Honestly, one of the big things that we Boomers feel in these later years of our lives is irrelevancy. “The younger generations really wish we would beat it and get out of their way. They act as if we have nothing to offer them.” I did not sense that from Patrick, so that trip to China was the beginning of a great friendship.