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## THE TAXI EXPERIENCE Cadavers!

## A Narrative from Philosopher, Educationist and Entrepreneur **Jimmy Teo**

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A kindly chatty lady (in her eighties) boarded the taxi from the hospital.

She realized quickly that the driver is a little unsure & was driving too slowly. Quite unusual. Most taxi drivers drive fast & at time furious!

She extended her hand & lightly tapped the shoulder of the driver, wanting to engage a conversation.

The driver gave a yell. He pressed on the brake, screeching the taxi to a halt. Fortunately, there were no cars behind as it was quite late at night. The road was quite dark, dreary & somewhat, scary.

The poor taxi driver took a few deep gasps of breath, looked behind & slowly uttered:

"Madam, my deepest apologies.

I did not mean to brake so suddenly or that I am careless.

I just started work as a taxi driver for 3 days.

For the past 3 years, my job at the hospital was to handle cadavers (dead bodies). I often dreamed that one of them may wake up & touched me.

That is why I quitted the job & took up taxi driving.

Today, I decided to come to hospital at this late hour to pick you up. It was done with some apprehension as this is the hospital I last worked in. That sudden foreboding returned.

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So, when you touched me, I forgot I changed job. I thought my fear became reality. I left this place only 3 days ago!

I am very sorry again, madam!"

The old lady told the driver to pick up more passengers from the hospitals to erase this unique fear syndrome.

The driver said that he thinks it is best for him not to pick anymore passenger from any hospital at night.

He said he has heart problem & the next time, he may not survive a similar experience as he may end up as a cadaver. He has humour, indeed!

This time, they both laughed & laughed.

She advised: "This is life, young man. One fine day, we all will be cadavers. We must enjoy our life daily, learn to laugh like we just did, and accept the inevitable. Move forward & relish our remaining minutes & moments. That's living with fun, the only way forward!"

Fears entertained daily & often

Are dangers for the mind & health.



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