Time flies, four years has passed through fingers like a click. It has been tough four years, but at the same time fruitful. It’s never been an easy task to obtain a PhD degree (especially in a complete foreign country), and I am happy that I have achieved the goal (well~ almost). Coming to live in Amsterdam is a whole new experience to my life. Having to say that I lived in the US for eight years, I thought I had understood much about the western culture, the truth is, Europe (or more precisely, Amsterdam) is nowhere close to my previous naive understanding. I had experienced a huge cultural shock, and it took me four years to finally feel "not so shock".

Some Dutch friends often said that I only have negative views about Amsterdam, especially I complained about the weather and the rudeness of people a lot (guess I am not the only foreigner who does so haha =>.<=). Well, that is not true, and here I am going to mention something good about this city. I like the biking culture and the well designed bike tracks in the city, it’s very environmentally friendly, and also a good way for exercising my body after long work hours. I like how we can see birdies, duckies, bunnies and little unknown animals running or flying around. It’s wonderful to see how wild living things and human can co-exist peacefully in a city (though I always need to watch out the poo-poo bombs from sky). I like how Dutch society handling the street cats/dogs issue, building animal shelters for them, treating them with respects. This is wonderful, and certainly something what my country needs to work on. So, it’s not always that negative. =^.^=

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Yi-Jung =^.^=

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“By endurance we conquer.”

– Shackleton