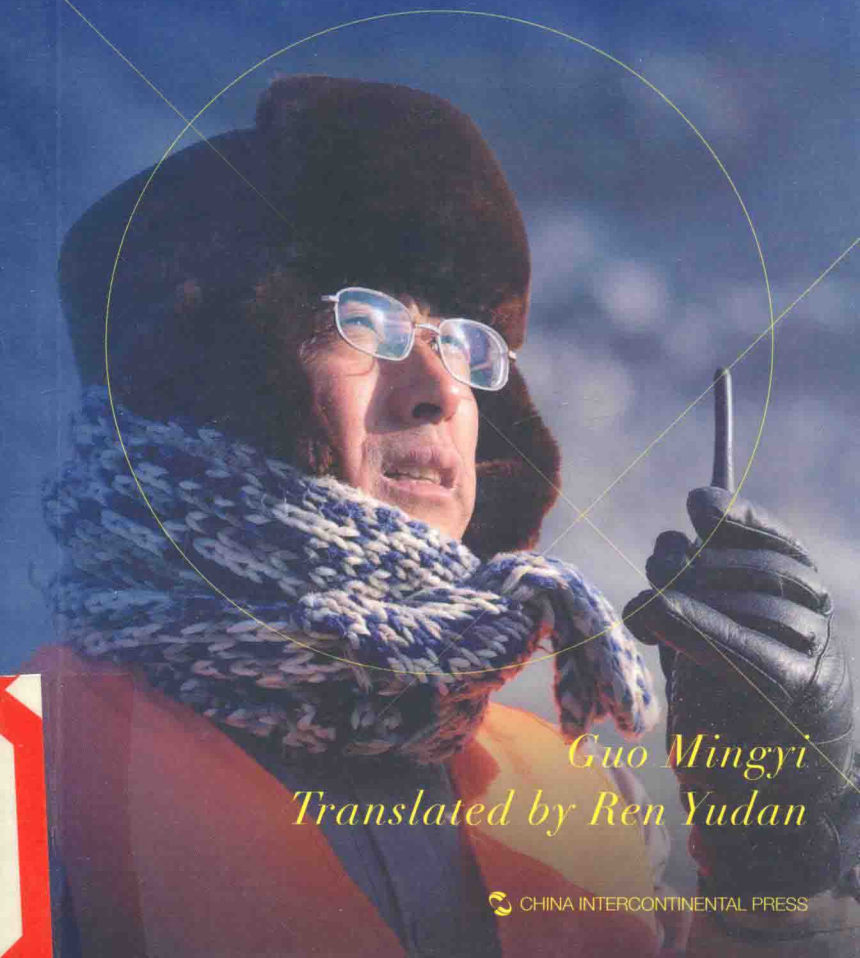


REALIZING THE CHINESE DREAM

HAPPINESS IS SO SIMPLE

The Story of a Modern Lei Feng



Guo Mingyi
Translated by Ren Yudan

 CHINA INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

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Author's Preface

I don't even know how I became a celebrity overnight. Journalists often interviewed me and almost every one of them would ask me, "Mr. Guo, for so many years you have been helping others by following the example of Lei Feng. Don't you even feel exhausted?" I thought about it carefully for a while when I first heard such a question. The answer is I think my life is just great and I never find it hard or tiring.

Each time I hurry back home after helping others, I would see my wife waiting for me smiling at the door in the sunshine. It makes me feel so satisfied.

My father had a deep influence on me since childhood. It is also at that time that I started to worship Lei Feng, hoping to become a person who serves his people, just like him. Since the fourth grade in the primary school, I got up before dawn to light the stove at school for my fellow students.

I felt, for the first time in my life, the happiness of serving others when I saw them enjoying warmth. From then on, I was determined that learning from Lei Feng and carrying on his spirit would be my lifelong pursuit.

In January 1977, I realized my dream of joining the army. In those years, people in the army were competing with each other, wishing to be a model of learning from Lei Feng. I was more active because I came from Anshan Iron and Steel Group, the place where Lei Feng had worked. Learning from Lei Feng became a habit and self-discipline. The night when I was named the “Model of Learning from Lei Feng”, I was so excited that I couldn’t fall asleep the whole night. I had been “an excellent league member” for five years in the army. I couldn’t be much happier!

I had different thoughts on life when I started to work and was exposed to different social groups. Comparing with orphans who can’t afford school fees, and workers in difficult life, I feel myself so lucky and can’t help giving them a hand.

I feel painful when I see people in pain and happy when I see them in happiness.

But even if one is made of iron, he can’t be made into plenty of nails. I thought that it would

be so great if there were more warm-hearted people like me. So I started to “incite” others, because people in my age all adored Lei Feng from the bottom of heart. Nowadays many people adore singers and movie stars. Maybe they can’t understand me, but I have my own spiritual pursuit. In any case, I believe that the society will become better and better as long as there are more people willing to help others bit by bit.

Once I was invited to Tonight’s Blog of Liaoning TV. At the end of the show, the host invited my wife to the stage and asked me to say something to her for she had been backing me up for so many years. Looking at the wrinkles on her face, memories flashed through my mind like a movie. Tears streamed down before I said a word. At last I wiped off tears and said: “Thank you darling!”

I have never cried for 28 years since I left the army but couldn’t help in front of my wife. I owe her a lot over the past years. We have been living a simple life after getting married. We went shopping only twice and I never bought her a decent present. Even now we still live in a 40-square-meter apartment. But both my wife and daughter understand and support me. A journalist once said,