



漢 英 對 照

一個女性的奮鬥

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The Struggle of A Girl

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世 界 文 化 出 版 社

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幼年時代

新秋的氣候，似乎比夏天還炎熱，晚間雖有微微風從破紙窗裏吹來，但我被祖母抱在懷中滿身都是汗，白天被母親用棍條打過的皮膚上，現着一條條的血痕，在銀白色的月光底下的臉是慘白的。

忽然間，她由抽噎而放聲大哭了。

『小乖，我的寶貝，你再不要哭了，哭醒了母親，她又會來打你的。』祖母輕輕地拍着。

『我……我不怕打，她爲什麼不打死我呢？』我的話說得很大，好像故意要使母親知道似的；然而睡在隔壁的母親，終於忍着氣沒有做聲。

『寶寶，你以後不要淘氣了。你娘爲你不知受過多少苦。記一記吧，你把銅錢吞在喉管，不能吐出，又不能嚥下，整整的一天，你像斷了氣的孩子，眼睛翻白，口邊滾流，你母親急得爬過了二十里的高山去請水師（醫生），她在別人面前像瘋了似的磕着頭說：「只要有人救出我的孩子，他要我的命，都可犧牲。」後來銅錢吞在肚裏了，她又怕銅吸出了血，於你的生命有妨礙，又特地着人到寶慶去買了幾十斤茨菇來給你吃，而且每次檢查你的大便，看銅錢有否出來。又有一次你爲了去弄屋樑上的燕子窠，從樓上掉下來，臉摔破了，氣也斷了，全身冰冷，完全失掉了知覺，你母親急得眼淚雙流，趕快一面請水師，一面跪在菩薩面前求靈水：「神啊，我的鳳寶寶如果有災難，就降給我吧，一切我來替代她，祇要保佑她康健，活潑，以我的生命去換取她一切的災難吧！」這幾件事，你總還記得吧？』

我停止了哭，靜靜地聽着祖母說着關於我的故事。

Chapter I

MY CHILDHOOD

THE NEW AUTUMN SEEMED EVEN HOTTER than the summer. Though it was night, and a little breeze blew in from the paper window, I was sweating all through as my grandmother held me to her bosom. That day my mother had beaten me with a leather strap. My skin was bruised and my face was pitifully white in the silver moonlight.

Suddenly I shivered and cried out.

"My Precious," said Grandmother, as she tenderly patted me, "don't cry again. If you waken Mother she will beat you again."

"I am not afraid of being beaten. Why doesn't she beat me to death?" I spoke loudly, as if I wanted Mother to know; and in the next room Mother heard and was angry, but did not speak.

"Precious, don't be naughty after this," said Grandmother. "Because of you, your mother went through much torture. Remember when you got a penny in your throat, and you could not get it out or swallow it down, and for the whole day you were like a dead child, with your eyes turned white and saliva running out of your mouth. Your mother was so frightened that she went twenty miles up the mountain to call a doctor. She spoke like an insane person and kneeled down and said, 'If anyone can save my child, I will give him my life if he wants it.' Then, when you swallowed the copper down, she was afraid that it would suck your blood, and that you might not live. So she sent men specially to Paoching to buy ten pounds of *tseku* herbs and every day she looked through your waste to see if the penny had come out. Another time, because you wanted to play with a pigeon's nest, you fell down from the roof; your face was hurt, your whole body was icy cold; you lost all consciousness. Tears ran down from your mother's eyes, and she hurried to get a doctor. Then, kneeling before the Buddha, she prayed, 'Spirit, if my Phoenix Precious has any bad luck, give it to me. I will go through it for her, but give her health, happiness, and let me have all her bad luck!' These things you must still remember."

I stopped crying and quietly listened to Grandmother telling her stories about me.

『唉！我的心脏！』她長嘆了一聲，又繼續着說：『你的確太淘氣了，不知是什麼變的。你娘自從懷了你的第一個月起，無論吃了什麼東西，都要嘔吐，即使喝一口水，吃一顆豆子也要吐出來。每天頭昏腹痛，到了最後的二三個月，她幾乎苦痛得要想自殺，但一想到還有三個兒子一個女兒要她撫養時，又祇得轉了生的念頭。』

『這是她的生命關頭，你要出世了！兩天前，她就叫着肚子痛，不能起床；不要說吃飯，就連水也不能進口，在床上痛得打了二天滾，你的頭忽然從裏面出現了，我以爲小孩立刻就會下來，懷着滿腔的希望，眼睛睜地等着接生，誰知候了一天一夜，長滿了黑髮的頭還在原地方。你娘的精神，早已不能支持了，你的父親又不在家，我一個人守着她，一步也不敢離開，更沒有什麼辦法可想；後來好容易託六祖母請了接生婆來。唉！提起接生婆真氣死人，以前你娘生了四個孩子，都沒有請過接生婆，而且每次均不過半個時辰（一小時）就下來了，誰知道這次生你經過一天一晚還是生不下，接生婆看了只是搖頭：

『「沒有希望了，你們還是早點預備後事吧。」』

『這樣的話，她居然也說出來了，六祖母堅決要接生婆將孩子弄出來，她說：「無論如何要救出大人；犧牲小孩，是毫無關係的。」』

『我那時急得全無主張了；倒是你母親還清醒，她哽咽地對我說：「媽，你趕快替我在南嶽聖帝面前許炷香吧！如果生的是個男孩，他滿了十六歲就去還香；要是個女孩，她二十歲時，我親自帶她去還。」』

『於是我聽了她的話，就跪在南嶽聖帝面前許了「血香。」果然快到天亮的時候，哇的一聲，你就落地了。你盆的聲音特別洪大，滿院子的人幾乎都給你驚醒了！你的眼睛像燈籠一樣的亮晶晶。眼珠轉動得特別快，一雙小拳頭和兩條腿動個不停；六祖母嘆息着說：「可惜是個千金，

"Oh! My heart and liver!" she sighed, and went on again. "You are much too naughty; I don't know where you came from. Even in the first month your mother conceived you, no matter what she ate, she threw it all up again. Even a mouthful of water and a pea she had to throw up. Every day she had a headache and a stomachache. When she reached the last two or three months she suffered until she almost wanted to commit suicide. But she thought of the sons and daughter she had to care for, and changed her mind.

"Then came the critical time when you were going to enter the world. Two days before, she said that she had a stomachache; she could not get up and did not want to eat, not even to take water. She rolled on her bed in pain for two whole days. Your head suddenly came out, and I thought your birth was to be soon. I had a bellyful of hope, and I waited anxiously. But after a day and a night, that little hairy head was still in the same place. Your mother's energy was giving out. Your father was not at home, and I watched her alone and did not dare to move away for one instant. But there seemed nothing to do about it. After a long struggle, I told Sixth Grand-Auntie to call a midwife. Ah, talking about a midwife really makes people angry! Your mother had given birth to four children before, and never needed a midwife. Every time it was over in an hour. But who would have thought that this time after a day and a night, you would not come out? The midwife came to look and shook her head and said:

"There is no hope. You had better prepare the last rites."

"She could say a thing like that! Sixth Grand-Auntie urged the midwife to get the child out and cried, 'Anyway, you must save the mother, even if you have to sacrifice the child.'

"I was so worried that I didn't know what to do. But your mother had more presence of mind and she mumbled, half weeping, 'Mother, hurry to the Holy Ruler of the South Sacred Mountain and burn incense! If a boy comes, then when he is sixteen, he will go and burn incense to give thanks. If it is a girl, when she is twenty, I will take her myself and burn incense.'

"So I listened to her, and went and knelt before the god and promised to burn 'Blood Basin Incense' in thanks for answer to the prayer. And so at dawn you came out with a cry. Your voice was so big that you woke the whole courtyard. Your eyes were as bright as two lanterns. The eyeballs turned very quickly, and your hands and feet never stopped moving. Sixth

要是男孩，一定會做大官的，你看這一對大而活溜溜的眼睛。」

『你母親很不高興地回答她：「兒子和女兒，都是一樣的。」』

『由此你可知道你的母親，雖爲你吃了不少苦，可是仍然痛愛你的，寶寶，以後再不要使她難過了，你要體貼你娘的辛苦和慈愛呀！』

祖母生怕我睡着了，其實我很清楚，腦筋裏一面演映着母親難產時的慘狀，一面深深地刻着白天母親第一次拚命鞭打我的情形。我懷疑剛才祖母敘述六祖母的話，也許就是她自己說的，不過爲了祖母太愛我，也就不和她算賬了。

我的家庭

父親是祖母的獨生子，他生長在一個極窮困的僱農家中，祖母常常告訴我們關於她嫁給祖父的故事。『我的娘家雖然很窮，可是來到你家就更現得窮了，不但沒有飯吃，簡直連碗都找不出兩個來。

『這話怎麼講呢？』當我最初聽到時，總是這樣問她。

『待我慢慢地告訴你吧，你祖父共五兄弟，你祖父行二，當曾祖父臨死時，每個兒子分一升米，一條凳，一隻碗，這就是他的遺產。你祖父不是也只能分到一只碗嗎？那麼我來了怎麼辦呢？』

『去買一個來呀！』

『是的，因爲你祖父是個忠厚而努力工作的農夫，因此他每替人家做工，主人都待他很好；他賺了錢，不但可以買碗，而且他將每年的工錢慢慢地積起來，後來就娶了我。我來到這裏之後，每天替人家洗衣服，做苦工，也可賺得一點米，慢慢地自己可以買套耕具了，再向人家借一點買了一條牛，於是我們就租了幾畝田來耕。唉！說到耕田，我就記起你的父親了。他那時還只有七八歲，可是特

Grand-Auntie sighed and said, 'Pity it is a girl. If it were a boy, surely he would be a high official. Look at those lovely eyes!'

"'Boys and girls are the same,' your mother said, very much annoyed.

"So you must know that your mother loves you, even though she went through a lot of suffering for you. Precious, from now on, you must think of your mother's sufferings and her love!"

Grandma thought I was asleep, but I was still wide awake, listening quietly. In my mind, I acted out Mother's giving birth to me. But at the same time I carved deeply the memory of Mother's beating me for the first time with a leather strap. I suspected that what Grandmother had told as Sixth Grand-Auntie's remarks were really her own, but because I loved her so much, I did not say so to her.

My Family

Father was the only son of Grandmother. He was born a poor farmer. Grandmother often told us about her wedding with my grandfather. "My mother's family was poor," she said, "but when I came to your family it was even poorer. Not only was there no rice to eat, we could not even find two bowls."

When I heard of this, I would ask her, "How could that be?"

"Let me tell you slowly. Your grandfather had five brothers. Grandfather was number two. When Greatgrandfather was dying, he left to each of them ten pounds of rice, a stool, and a bowl. That was all his property. Your grandfather got just one bowl, like the others. So, when I came, what was there to do?"

"Buy another one!"

"Yes, I did. For your grandfather was an honest and hardworking farmer, so that whenever he worked for others, the master always treated him well. He earned money, and not only could he buy bowls, but he could save money every year. When he married me, I washed clothes for people every day. I did hard work and earned a little rice too, and gradually we were able to buy a set of farming tools. And borrowing a little from others, we bought a cow. Then we rented a few acres of land. Oh! Talking about farming, I remember how your father, when he was only seven or eight, liked to study

別愛讀書，每天放牛時，總是偷偷地帶了本書藏在懷裏。到了野外，他就坐下來看書，不管牛走到了什麼地方，或者吃掉人家的麥子，青菜，豆子等。有一次牛失蹤了，他嚇得一天不敢回家，哭得死去活來；第二天鄰居替他找到了，你祖父問他爲什麼這樣粗心，他回答說因看書忘記了牛。從此，你祖父知道這孩子不是個牧牛郎，生來就是個書呆子，於是就允許送他讀書。只要他努力，將來還可送他去考狀元。

『你父親聽了這句話，簡直喜得發狂！他整天整夜的讀書，沒有月亮的晚上，就用松枝點着看，有時連手指都燒枯了，皮也燒掉了，他還是不知道。辛卯年赴省會考，沒有衣服穿，就拿我的破衣穿在裏面，另給他做了一件新的罩在上面，你祖父替他挑擔，店鋪裏都把他當做僕人不理你祖父，後來你父親中了舉人，誰也沒想到這位挑夫，就是舉人的爸爸，哈哈！』

母親沒有兄弟，只有二個妹妹，她的個性特別強，她是個天不怕，地不怕的勇敢女性。家事全由她處理。十六歲嫁給父親後，便在謝鐸山大出風頭，她是個絕頂聰明，而又富有辦事材幹。她的腦筋不用說是充滿了三從四德，男尊女卑的觀念，重視舊禮教，勝於看重自己的生命。她不論在家庭，在社會，她完全處在支配階級的地位。鄉村裏的大小大小，幾乎都要聽從她的話，地方上的公產也由她保管，爲的是她不揩油，熱心公益事業；村政上更是少不了她，一件什麼事情發生了，鄉長會議解決不了的，只要請她去說幾句，便什麼問題都沒有了。

她生來就具有一種不屈不撓的精神和堅強能幹的性格，因此誰都害怕她，服從她。這麼一來，她便不但在地方上成了霸王，就是對待兒女，也像君主對待奴隸一般，需要絕對服從她的命令，聽她的指揮。有一次大哥爲了帶了

so much. Every day when he went to watch the cow, he quietly took a book and hid it in his jacket. When he got to the meadow he would sit down and read. He did not care at all where the cow went, or whether it ate other people's wheat and vegetables. Once he lost the cow and was so scared that he did not return the whole day, and cried his eyes out. The next day a neighbor found him. Your grandfather asked why he was so careless, and he said that he was reading and had forgotten. From then on your grandfather knew that he was not a cowherd. He was born a bookworm. If he would work hard, by and by Grandfather would send him to take the imperial examinations.

"When your father heard this he was mad with joy! He studied day and night. When at night there was no moonlight, he would read under a lighted pine branch. Sometimes the branch even burned his fingers before he knew it. In 1891 he went to take the provincial examination. As he had no clothing, he wore my old dress inside, and I made him a new one to wear outside. Your grandfather carried his baggage so that the people at the hotel took your grandfather for a servant and did not attend upon him. When your father became a candidate for the second degree, no one knew that this baggage carrier was his father!" Grandmother laughed loudly.

Mother had no brothers and only two sisters. Her will was very strong and she was a woman afraid of nothing. She ruled the family affairs; when she married Father at sixteen, she became quite well known in our village of Hsiehtushan. She was clever and had great ability. In her mind, needless to say, she had only the traditional ideas of women's obedience to men and the feminine virtues and the inequality of the sexes. She believed in Confucianism and valued it more than her own life. But whether at home or in society, she was always in the position of ruling others. Old and young, all listened to her, and the village public property was put in her hands because she was honest and public-spirited. In the village government they needed her even more. If something happened, and the village council could not decide, they would ask for her advice, and with a few words from her, the problem would be settled.

She was born with an indomitable spirit and a strong, capable character. Who would not be afraid of her? Thus, she was not only the dictator of the village, but she treated her own

他的妻，到離我家五百里的益陽去組織小家庭，事前沒有得到母親的同意，她立刻把大哥找回來罰他在地上跪着，頭上頂着一大脚盆水，如果稍爲動一動，水倒了下來，母親就要打他的屁股；以後經許多人勸解，才將脚盆取了下來。

又有一次，二哥爲了要和他的兇惡的，毫沒有感情的小脚老婆離婚，母親拍着桌子大聲罵道：『你這東西，讀了書回來做這種沒廉恥，無道德的事，難道真的不顧祖宗的面子嗎？你要離婚，先殺了我再說！在我沒有死以前，絕對不許有這種丟臉面的事發生。』二哥知道母親的個性太強，如果離婚，就要犧牲她的性命，因此只好忍着苦痛，一直到吐血死了爲止，他還是孤零零地沒有和第二個女性結合過。

至於姐姐更是如小羔羊一般馴良，在母親面前，連話都不敢大聲的。十八歲嫁給一個姓梁的，受盡了丈夫和翁姑的虐待，可是她回到家來，總是故意說她的丈夫如何待她好；她知道假若不這樣，母親反要罵她不會侍候丈夫的。好幾次遇着她在廁所裏流淚，或者晚上從夢中哭醒來。

三哥也是服從父母之命的，可是他比二哥強，有時雖然也會和母親吵起來，但他要做的事，總有方法感動父母使他們不能反對。

至於我呢？太慚愧了，我完全是個叛逆的孩子！

黃金的兒童時代

我是母親最小的孩子，姐姐比我大十歲，她在我剛滿八歲的那年就出嫁了。三個哥哥有二個隨着父親上縣城裏讀書去了，大哥已經做了教師，他們一年回來二次，寒假和暑假是我們團圓的時候。母親每年冬天都要準備許多乾魚，臘肉，等他們回來吃。我很羨慕他們那種做客似的生

sons and daughters like an emperor commanding slaves. We had to listen to and obey her orders. Once Elder Brother took his wife to live separately at Yiyang, five hundred *li* away, without letting Mother know beforehand. She immediately ordered him to come back, and punished him by making him kneel down on the ground with a big foot-basin full of water on his head. If he moved a little, the basin would fall, and Mother would beat him on his bottom. Only after many people had interceded, did she take the basin away.

Once because Second Brother wanted to divorce his wife, an old-type woman with small feet, Mother banged on the table and scolded loudly, "You who have studied for so long, come home to do such a shameless, immoral thing! Don't you want to leave your ancestors some face? If you want to divorce her, kill me first! But while I am still living, I will not allow this kind of disgrace to happen to our family." Second Brother knew that Mother's will was too strong, and that if he divorced his wife, he would sacrifice his mother's life. So he endured it until he spat blood and died. Second Brother remained lonely till his last days.

As for my elder sister, she was gentler than a lamb. In the presence of Mother she dared not even talk loud. At eighteen she married a man named Liang and was cruelly treated by her husband and her parents-in-law. Nevertheless, she always returned home saying how well her husband treated her, knowing that if she didn't say so, Mother would scold her for not knowing how to serve her husband. Many times I found her crying in the privy, or waking at night in tears in the middle of a dream.

Third Brother also obeyed his parents, but he was a stronger character than Second Brother. He, too, sometimes quarreled with Mother, but if he wanted to do something he had a way of appealing to his parents' hearts until they consented.

As for me, it is a shame, for I was a completely rebellious child.

Golden Years

I was Mother's last child. Sister was ten years older than I. When I was just eight she was married. Two of my three brothers followed Father to the town to study. Elder Brother was already a school teacher. They returned twice a year, and the winter and summer vacations were the time for our family

涯，每次接到父親和哥哥們那天回家來的信時，母親總有一兩晚快活得不能睡覺。

她煮好了飯菜等着，替我換了一件乾淨的衣服，並且每次都這樣說：『乖乖，不要弄髒了，爸爸回來了會買糖給你吃，哥哥還要給你許多玩意兒呢。』

從縣裏到我的家裏有九十里路程，要爬過兩座高山，父親坐着轎子，還僱了一個挑夫，二哥和三哥總是穿着短衣和草鞋跑路，像個挑煤炭的孩子，走得氣喘喘地。

從下午五點鐘起，母親就牽着我的手站在門口盼望了，一直要到暮色蒼茫的時候，才看見遠遠地有頂轎子跑來。

『乖，你爸爸回來了！』母親連忙走同去準備開水泡茶，我同小黑狗賽跑似的走到半里遠的地方去迎接。

『爸爸，糖呢？』

我像小猴子上樹似的兩隻小手抱緊了父親的頸項，小黑狗也在搖着尾巴向父親撲來，二哥用棍子打牠，父親連忙說着：『不打牠，不打牠，牠像寶寶一樣歡迎我們呢。』於是連挑夫也笑起來了，只有我咬着嘴不做聲，我不高興父親把我當做小狗看待。

晚間在豆大的煤油燈下父親教哥哥讀古文，教我吟詩，母親和嫂嫂紡着紗，父親的吟詩聲常常和紡車聲打成一片，合奏着一種令人沉醉的音樂。

採茶女

母親因為我太不聽話了，白天總是在外邊玩，不肯規規矩矩地坐在家裏，她就給我一件苦工做；每天吃了早飯，就到茶園裏去採茶。

從我家到茶園有二里多路，中飯是用小籃子盛着，着人送去的，我和嫂嫂還有許多採茶女，都要黃昏時候才能回家。

gatherings. Every winter Mother prepared dry fish and smoked meats and awaited their return. I envied very much their visits, for they were treated like guests. Every time she received letters from Father and my brothers saying when they would return, Mother would be so glad that she would pass one or two sleepless nights.

She would cook the meal, put a new dress on me, and would say, "Dear, don't dirty that dress. When Father returns, he is going to buy you some candies. Your brothers are going to bring you toys."

From the town to our home was a distance of ninety *li*. They had to climb over two high hills. Father rode in a sedan chair and hired a luggage man. Second and Third Brothers always wore short trousers and straw sandals and ran panting like the boys carrying coal from the mines.

About five in the afternoon, Mother would take my hand and stand at the door and wait for them, until against the gray and cloudy sky, we saw far away a sedan chair coming.

"Darling, Father has returned!" Mother would cry, and go in to prepare water to make tea. I and my little black dog would race half a *li* to welcome them.

"Father, where are the candies?" I would cry.

With both hands, I would hug Father's neck tightly, like a monkey climbing a tree. The little black dog would wag its tail and jump on Father. Second Brother often used a stick on him, but Father would say immediately, "Don't beat him, don't beat him! He is coming to welcome us, like Precious." Even the baggage man would laugh. Only I held my mouth and kept quiet. I did not like Father comparing me to a little dog.

At night under the long flame of an oil lamp, father taught my brothers ancient Chinese and taught me to sing the poems, while Mother and Sister-in-law spun, so that Father's tunes and the singing of the poems often kept in rhythm with the sound of the spinning wheel, making an intoxicating music.

The Girl Who Picked Tea Leaves

Because I would not obey orders and did not sit at home according to the rules, but played outside the whole day, Mother gave me a hard task to do. Every day after breakfast I had to go out and pick tea leaves.

我沒有採茶的經驗，常把一根一根的枝弄斷了，嫂嫂急得跳起來說：『妹妹，你還是去捉你的蝴蝶吧，不要弄壞了茶樹，母親知道了，又會罵你的。』

『不，我一定要採，難道你生來就會採的嗎？還不是學來的。』

她是最拙嘴的人，常常被我說得沒有話可答，這同她又失敗了。

與其說我在採茶，不如說採花還來得洽當。每次回家時，我的小籃子裏老是裝滿了花，當經過一座五丈多長的石橋時，我就將花丟在橋下讓水流送到洞庭湖裏去，還要囑咐牠一聲：

『花呀，你流到龍王那裏去吧，美麗的公主，正要等着做新娘了呢。』

紡紗的姑娘

秋風吹來了丹桂的幽香，月姐放出清明的光輝，星星在天邊閃爍，孩子們在坪裏和影子賽跑，捉迷藏。我呢？八歲的小姑娘，已經開始做大人的工作了。

和我一同在月下紡紗的，除了嫂嫂而外，還有二個外房的姑母和鄰居的箴姑娘。

凡是生長在我鄉的女孩，到了七八歲的時候便要教給她紡紗，績麻，做針線。貧苦的替別人紡，每斤的工價是二百文，紡得最快的，每天最多紡四兩，普通的二兩，三兩。平均起來，一天只賺得三四個銅板。

我是替自己紡紗沒有一定的限制，母親說：『只要你紡得多，自己家裏種的棉花，如果還不夠供給你時，就到藍田市去買些來。』

『不，我不高興紡，我穿不了這多布呢。』我對媽媽說。

『不是你現在穿的，是準備你的嫁奩，只要你發憤多紡，將來抬二十箱衣服到婆家去。多麼闊氣呀！』