



2013
CHINESE LIFE

Chinese Life

Bitter-Sweet Portraits



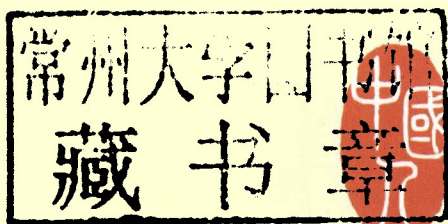
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Preface

As every person has their own dreams, so does every nation. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), recently pointed out that achieving the rejuvenation of the great Chinese nation is our greatest dream in modern times. He said that the “Chinese Dream” is in fact the people’s dream, and that “to achieve the rejuvenation dream of the great Chinese nation is to achieve national prosperity and rejuvenation and the people’s happiness.”

In such an era as we as a nation work toward fulfilling the “Chinese Dream”, we found 24 Chinese people in 2012 and 2013, and this book records their glory and dreams, laughter and tears. Although they do not represent all of the Chinese people, what they experienced, thought and accomplished in more than a year placed them in the spotlight.

There is a writer, who won the 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature and was the first Chinese citizen to do so. He is Mo Yan. He said after winning the prize, “China has many excellent writers, whose works should be recognized and accepted by the world.” We hope that, after Mo Yan, there will be more and more outstanding works of contemporary Chinese literature that will be recognized by the world.

There is a taikonaut, who was the first female astronaut in China. She is Liu Yang. On June 16, 2012, Spacecraft “Shenzhou-9” was successfully launched. In the following 13 days in space, Liu Yang and two other

spacefarers successfully completed the manned rendezvous and docking tasks for Spacecraft "Shenzhou-9" and Spacecraft "Tiangong-1", which means that China has completely mastered rendezvous and docking technology, and that it has the basic capabilities to construct space stations.

There is a director, who won the 85th Oscar Award for Best Director and is the first Asian director to receive the award twice. He is Ang Lee, who developed from an "average student" who failed the college entrance exam twice to a film master at New York University, from a frustrated "house husband" to a world-renowned film director who has gained many top international film awards. His transformations cannot be achieved without the persistent pursuit of his ideal of film. He shows the clash and exchange possibilities of East and West in his movies with the clever fusion of traditional Chinese culture and mainstream of Western culture.

There is a businessman, who is the first entrepreneur from Chinese mainland to appear on the cover of the U.S. financial magazine *Forbes*. He is Ma Yun (Jack Ma), who founded Alibaba, which quickly became the world's largest B2B e-commerce platform. A layman who only knew what the Internet was but not its connotations, Ma created the brilliant online shopping empire today, promoting and witnessing the prosperity of China's online shopping market.

There is an athlete, who is known as "Girl Flying Fish". She is Ye Shiwen. She broke world records one after another and won two Olympic gold medals within three days at the 2012 Olympics in London when she was only 16 years old. With a series of honors, she attracted attention worldwide, including praise and envy. While bathed in her fame, we do not see the arrogance that usually comes with achievements or fear generated by rumors. She pioneered a new era of her own though she was only 16 years old.

There is a teacher, who was praised by the netizens as "The Most Beautiful Female Teacher". She is Zhang Lili. She was seriously injured and her legs were amputated because she tried to save her students from a car accident when she was 29, an age when people are supposed to enjoy life and achieve ideals. From her case, we see the responsibility and the sacrifice of the post-1980 generation of young teachers.

There is a nurse, who is known as the "Alpine Snow Lotus". She is Peng Yan. After graduating from a military medical science university,

she decided to work in Nagqu, Tibet, which is known as a “life restricted area”. She has faced death 17 times in 12 years on her way to outreach clinics. More than 4,000 days on the frontier left her 23 scars and various diseases. Someone said that she had had too much to lose, but she does not think so. In her view, love is the most beautiful emotion.

There is a migrant worker, who was a delegate to the 18th CPC National Congress held in November 2012. He is Cheng Junrong. He was born a farmer, came from a technical background and worked as a migrant worker in the city. Nevertheless, he has honors that are hard to be matched by other people. A former migrant worker, he has realized the dream of migrant workers for he has now completed the process of transforming from a farmer to a citizen in the city.

...

When these people are presented to us, their glory and splendor, joy and sorrow pieced together illustrate the common experience of the Chinese people. In these stories, we can witness the development of China and the pursuits of the Chinese people.

As a long-cherished wish for several generations of the Chinese people, the “Chinese Dream” is the common aspiration of every Chinese person. Recalling the past, based on the present, the “Chinese Dream” is guiding contemporary China toward a bright future ahead.



Well-known Writer

Mo Yan: Road to the Nobel Prize

Oscar Award for Best Director

Ang Lee: Conquering the World with a Lens

New Swimming Star

Ye Shiwen: A Grand Slam in Swimming

Public Service Star

Chen Kun: Power of Walking

Television Editing & Directing

Chen Xiaoqing: "A Bite of China"



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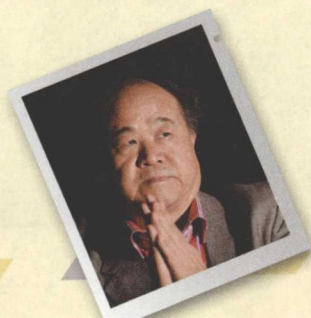
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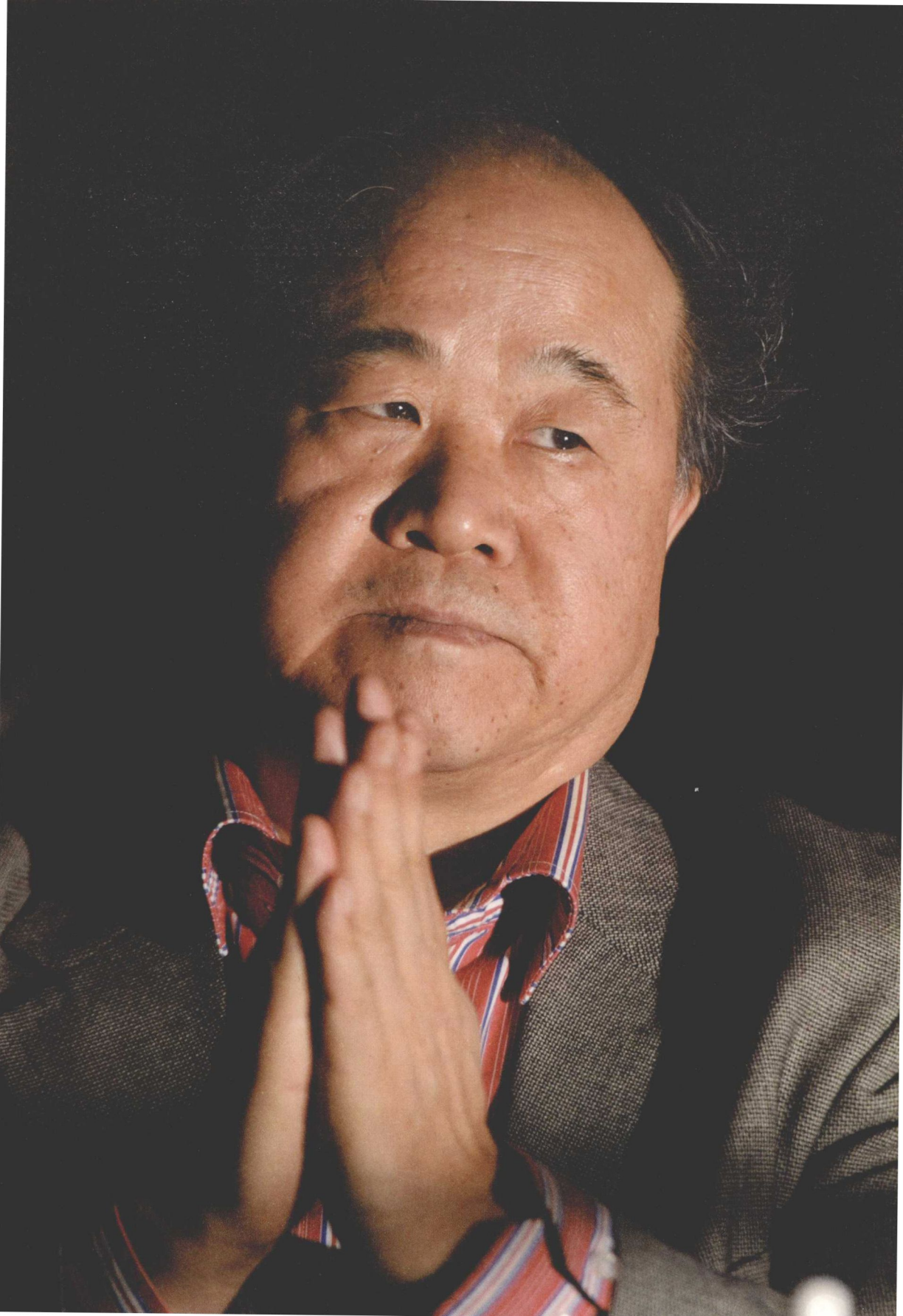
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Recreation and Sports

In this year, Mo Yan won the Nobel Prize for Literature; Ang Lee won the Oscar Award for Best Director; Ye Shiwen, only 16 years old, broke world records one after another and won two Olympic gold medals within three days; Chen Xiaoqing presented the real life of ordinary Chinese people through the TV program "A Bite of China"; Chen Kun, together with his young friends, reconnected with themselves by walking, warming others and passing positive energy. In this year, the literary and art circles told their Chinese stories to the world in their own unique ways.





Introduction

The Swedish Nobel Prize Committee announced that Mo Yan was the winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature at 19 o'clock, October 11th, 2012, Beijing Time. He was the 105th author to be awarded the honor since the Nobel Prize for Literature was created in 1901, and also the first Chinese citizen ever to win the Nobel Prize. The Nobel citation praised Mo Yan "who with hallucinatory realism merges folk tales, history and the contemporary." As a well-known writer in contemporary China, Mo Yan rose to fame with a series of books set in rural China beginning in the mid-1980s. The works are full of the complicated emotions of nostalgia and resentment, and he is classified as a writer of the "root-seeking" school.



Well-known Writer

Mo Yan Road to the Nobel Prize

"I am a storyteller. Telling stories earned for me the Nobel Prize for Literature. Many interesting things have happened to me in the wake of winning the prize, and they have convinced me that truth and justice are alive and well. So I will continue telling my stories in the days to come."

—Mo Yan

The conferring of the 2012 Nobel Prize for Literature on the Chinese writer Mo Yan attracted the attention of foreign readers to Chinese literature and Chinese writers, and aroused their interest in Chinese literature. After the news of his winning of the prize was released, his books in stores all over the world were almost sold out.

Mo Yan was very calm about winning the prize. "A common person becomes famous only because there is no hero in the world," said Mo Yan. "I become famous only because there are no great writers in contemporary literature. This is something that must be made clear. Some people are more talented and more experienced than I am, but they are not held in high esteem in literature. This is because they do not have opportunity, so I am very lucky. I always need to learn from others. I should not forget who I am." He has never ceased cautioning himself to remain sober-minded since he began to gradually gain prominence as a young writer thirty years ago. "Do not be supercilious because of fame. I should respect other writers and the works of the others in my heart instead of just pretending to respect them. Only when a person is able to find advantages of the others can he/she make possible progress. If a writer thinks his works are better than the works of anyone else's, he/she will stop making further progress."

Dialogue

Journalist: What, in your works, do you think moved the judges?

Mo Yan: I think it was mainly because of the literary quality of my works. This is a prize in literature. The reason for awarding the prize is literature. My works are part of the Chinese literature and also part of the global literature. My works show the life of the Chinese people and typical culture and scene of China. My novels are also a depiction of people in a wider sense. I always take the perspective of a person. I am always writing about people. I think this makes my works go beyond regional, racial and ethnic limits.

A Child Who Loved Books and Stories

Mo Yan was born in a very desolate village in Gaomi County, Shandong Province in 1955. There were many people in the family. He left school before he even finished the fifth grade. When the children of his age sang and played ballgames at the school, he lonesomely passed the school gate every day, driving one or two animals to graze on the vast meadow outside of the village, but he always had a strong desire to study.

Mo Yan was very much a book fan. In order to read books, he helped the others labor in various ways in exchange for books to read or exchanged the few children's books he had with others. One of Mo Yan's classmates had an illustrated *Investiture of the Gods*. He was very interested in this imaginary and hallucinatory book. When he asked his classmate if he could borrow the book, she said, "If you want to read our book, you need to help us rotate the millstone. You can read