

英漢對照文藝讀物

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“SISTER”

紺 琴 原 著

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原 著 者	紺	弩
譯 註 者	金	重
發 行 人	沈 靜	芷
發 行 者	新 知 書 店	

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姐 姐

“SISTER”

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姐 姐

是小時候的事。

一個春天底正午，我和青兒在城邊的田野的路上走着。那田野一望無涯都是菜花，黃的像金子一樣，把那些豌豆呀，麥子呀，都欺住了。它們發出一種沖人鼻孔的香氣，花香不像花香，酒香不像酒香。隨着暖和的風在田野上頭飄蕩。蜜蜂們成羣地在太陽底下飛，嗡嗡的唱着誰也聽不懂的歌。痞里痞氣地跟菜花們「玩臉」，有時候還朝人頭上飛，你不能撞牠一下，一撞，牠就射你一箭，討厭得很。

“SISTER”¹

It happened when we were young.

Twas noon-time in Spring Ching-erh and I were running along a footpath on a field in the suburb.² The field was full of vegetables, with flowers yellow as gold, stretching *as far as eyes could reach³ and humiliating⁴ all the green bean shoots and wheat-flowers. They emitted a fragrance that was piercing a fragrance that somewhat resembled the fragrance of flowers, and somewhat resembled the flavour of wine, though it was neither of them; and it floated along with the warm wind over the field. Bees fluttered *in swarms⁵ under the sun, buzzing⁶ a song that no one understand, and mischievously teasing the vegetable-flowers. Sometimes they flew right thwards your head, and you could not strike against them. They would shoot at you if you did—how annoying!

“Oh for a blade of grass, . . .

Hey nonny nonny;

「絆根子草哇，雅合一，

節節青囉，貨~~~~嚇。

男女相好麼要長情嘞·姦害啲！」

青兒唱着不知那裏學來的歌，一路走，一路把眼睛望着遠處。那遠處是青的山，稀疏的或者稠密的樹林，像煙霧一樣籠罩着四處的村莊和廟宇。

「多有意思呀，哥兒！一望這們遠，頭上是一整塊的天，哦……」她跟我說，我正從麥田里扯起一根麥子，想抽出里頭的桿子來做「吹叫子」，麥子還太嫩，做不成。我抬頭望天，天上光亮得差不多叫人睜不開眼睛，一匹鷹子在遠處的天空打轉；不錯。這是一整塊的天，城里頭的天是一條一條，一小塊一小塊的。

我們是到韓家灣去討了錢的，韓家灣離城里有四五里路。好些鄉下人該我們的錢，媽媽說這幾天要到家家去討

How green it looks! . . .

Oh, Nonny nonny hey;

That love 'twixt men and women,

Should last more than a day! . . .'

Thus sang Ching-erh—a song which she had learned no one knew where. As she ran along, she *cast her eyes on⁷ the green hills in the distance where villages and temples were⁸ veiled in parts *here and there⁹ by dense or scattered foliage as if by a mist.

“How interesting, dear brother! That one can see so far away, and there is one unbroken sky overhead. Ah! . . .” She said as I plucked a stalk of wheat from the wheat-field, with the hope of making a pipe from one of its blades. As the blades were very young and soft, I failed to make one. I raised my head skywards, and it was so dazzling¹⁰ that I could hardly open my eyes. A lone¹¹ eagle was wheeling in a distant part of the sky. It was right to speak of one unbroken sky; for in town we never saw the sky but in bits and fragments only.

We were going to Hou-chia-wan, a place about four or five *lis*¹² from town, to collect some debts from the country people there who had borrowed from us. Mother

一回，教我下半年不上學，跟青兒一塊去。討錢，只要青兒一個人就夠了。說話吵架都是她底事，我不過跟她走一趟。可是媽媽總教我跟着，青兒一個人出去，總是大半天不回來，打也打不好。媽媽背地里跟我說：「看她引你到那里去玩，跟那個講什麼話。都回來告訴我！」

我很喜歡跟青兒一路出去，她帶我到好些地方去玩，告訴我唱歌，跟我講古話；如果到城外，到鄉下，有蘿蔔的時候，她從人家田里偷蘿蔔，有菱角的時候就勾菱角，再不就摘毛栗子什麼的。只要弄得到手，她都弄來給我吃。有時候還偷錢出來給我買肉包子。

「啊哈，你偷錢啦，我告訴……」

「不是的，哥兒！我攢的呀，你告訴，以後就……」

said that we would *bother every debtor¹³ these few days, and she told me not to go to school in the afternoon, but to go along with Ching-erh. It was really enough for Ching-erh to go alone to collect debts, for it was her business to talk and to argue. I only went with her *for a trip.¹⁴ But mother always told me to accompany her; for when she went out alone, Ching-erh never came back until well over half a day. It was futile to beat her. Mother said to me secretly, "See where she will lead you to spend the time. Note what she will say, and to whom, and tell me everything when you come back."

I was very glad to go along with Ching-erh. She used to bring me to various interesting places, teach me to sing songs and tell me stories. When we went out of town to the country-side, she would steal carrots for me to eat where there were carrots, get me *jesuit's nuts¹⁵ where there were jesuit's nuts, or else she would pick me raw chestnuts. Anything she could manage to get in hand, she would always get for me to eat. Sometimes she even stole money to buy me meatbuns.

"Aha! You stole money, I'll tell"

"No, my young master! I earn it; if you tell, from now on"

她攢了錢買東西給我吃，我喜歡她。不拘她在外頭做了什麼，回家一點兒也不說，問起來，就說青兒先給我編好了的假話。反是媽媽跟我說了什麼，一丁一點，我都告訴青兒。

4

在城里有好多跟青兒一樣的大大小的丫頭，她們都要到河里去搥衣服，洗菜。天天在那個時候會在一齊。一到這時候，衣服，菜，先放在一邊。一鬧一伙，坐在一塊吃七子，吃九子，講閒話，一玩半天；到了覺得真不能不回去了，大家才七手八腳的做起事來，事情少的就幫事情多的人底忙。她們回去遲了。少不了要挨罵，甚至於挨打的吧，可是第二天出來還是照樣地玩着笑着，再沒有人提起先一天的事。

青兒不光只跟這些女孩子們玩，她還有好些大人朋友——其實她自己也是大人了，她比我大八九歲，我都已經

She earned money to buy me things to eat; how I liked her! Therefore, no matter what she did outside, I never said a word when I came home. When asked, I would only tell the lie that Ching-erh had made up for me. *On the other hand¹⁶ I told Ching-erh everything that Mother had said to me.

There were in town many older and younger *slave-maids¹⁷ like Ching-erh. Everyday they went to the river side to wash clothes and vegetables, and they always met in the same place and at the same time. When they came to the spot, they laid aside their clothes and vegetables, gathered together in groups, played *games with pebbles,¹⁸ gossiped about people, and spent half the day in amusing themselves. When they found they had to go back, then they began to work in a hurry. Those who had little to do helped those who had to do more. When they were late in going back they usually had to bear some scolding, or even a thrashing¹⁹ But on the next day, they came out, and played and laughed again; and no one would talk about what had happened the day before.

Ching-erh did not play with these young girls alone; she had grown-up friends too,—as a matter of fact, she was a grown-up herself, being older than I by eight

上了學；豆腐舖里四嬸娘，賣米粳的二嫂子，還有別個。她常常到這些人家里去。一去了就是講不完的話，不曉得多親熱。人家說：「青兒該回去了。」「怕什麼，橫直是遲了。」

青兒向來是一回家就愁眉苦臉，一出大門就歡天喜地的。

我們在田野的路上走，青兒高興地唱着歌，要我也跟他學着唱。如果有人走攏來，唱着唱着，就只剩下我一個人底聲音了。

她忽然說：「媽媽不是叫我們明天到文風塔去麼。看，那就是文風塔咧。」我順着她的左手望去，一個尖尖的東西，在遠遠的嶺崗子上站着，很小很小，好像還沒有我高。我有好久沒有到那塔上去玩了。

「明天，」她說，「我們上頂高的那一層上去玩。告

or nine years, and I was already at school age. Aunt Sze of the Bean-curd²⁰ Shop and Erh-sue who sold rice-cakes were among the friends whose homes Ching-erh often visited. And once she came to their places, it seemed she never talked enough, nor showed enough friendliness. And when they said that Ching-erh ought to go back, she retorted,²¹ "What do I fear! *After all,²² I am late already."

Ching-erh *never came home but²³ with *knitted-brows and a longdrawn face²⁴ but once out of doors, she was *all joy and happiness²⁵

As we were running on the foot-path in the field, Ching-erh sang joyously and she asked me to join her in singing. If some one came near, the singing would still go on, but then it was only my voice that could be heard.

Suddenly she said, "Didn't Mother tell us to go to the Wan-fung Pagoda to-morrow? Look! there is the Wan-fung Pagoda." I looked to where her left hand pointed at, and saw *a tapering something²⁶ on the top of a hill far away; it appeared so small that it seemed not even as tall as I was. It was a long time since I went to play in that Pagoda.

"To-morrow," she said, "We'll climb up to the top

訴你吧，還有人在上頭等我們咧，人家還買好東西等我們去吃。糖，花生，滷菜，酒……」

「真的麼？那個？那個等我們？」

『現在不要問，到了明天就曉得了。』

她像很得意的笑着。

「啊！我曉得你哄我。」

「幾時哄過你？是真的，不過不能先告訴你。一告訴你，就不靈了。還有你如果回去告訴媽媽，也就不靈了。」

我曉得她說的靈不靈是假的，怕我告訴是真的。其實，我爲什麼告訴？告訴了，媽媽一定不讓我們出來，人家買的東西我也吃不到了。唉唉，爲什麼不今天到文風塔去呢？

回家的時候，廳屋里坐着四五個客人，却一個也不認識。看那樣子，一個個又粗又黑，是些鄉巴佬，我們家里很少這樣人來往的。那些人看見我們一進來，就望着我們

storey, and have a good time there. Let me tell you: there will be someone waiting up there for us too someone who will buy us good things to eat, sweets peanuts, salted vegetables, wine”

“Is that true? Who? Who will wait for us?”

“You needn’t ask now; to-morrow you will know.”

She smiled triumphantly.²⁷

“Oh! I know you are deceiving me.”

“Have I ever deceived you? ‘Tis true, but I can’t tell you beforehand. If I tell you, it *will not do.²⁸ And if you go and tell Mother, it will not do either.”

I thought it was only *an excuse²⁹ for her to say this would not do and that would not do; really she was afraid that I should *tell tales³⁰ But in fact, why should I tell tales at all? If I told Mother, she definitely would not let us go out, and then I would miss, too, all the good things that someone was going to buy for us to eat. Alas! If we could only go to the Wan-fung Pagoda on this very day!

When we returned home, there were already four or five guests in the sitting room, all strangers. It seemed that everyone of them was dark and rough—in fact they were all rustics.³¹ Our family seldom *had any intercourse with³² people like these. When they saw us

啾，尤其是望着青兒啾。青兒和我也啾了他們一下，就跑到裡頭去了。

媽媽在廚戶里燒飯，因為有客吧，菜飯弄得很多。媽媽忙得額角上都是汗。還有隔壁屋里的小媳婦兒三姑在灶門口幫忙。

我們只顧在外頭好玩，沒有想到到家已經這們遲了。我不要緊，青兒沒有早回家做事，一定要挨罵的；爲什麼現在才回來？到那里野去了！

可是媽媽沒有罵，也沒有像要罵的樣子，反而很和氣的說：「唔，回來了，走累了吧，歇歇去！」

「歇歇，」青兒怕媽說的反話，趕忙跑到灶門口。

「三姑，麻煩你了，要我來吧。」

enter the house, they glanced at us, and especially at Ching-erh. Ching-erh and I returned their glances, and then ran into an interior room.

Mother was cooking rice in the kitchen. As there were guests, so more dishes and rice had to be prepared. Mother was so busy that there was perspiration all over her brow. And there was San-ku, the neighbour's little daughter-in-law standing at the door of the stove, to *render her help³³ too.

So much had we been enjoying ourselves outside that we never thought we would be so late in coming home. It was all right for me. But as Ching-erh did not come home *in time³⁴ to work, she would certainly get scolded. Why should she come back just then? Where had she been flirting³⁵ outside?

But Mother did not scold her, nor even showed any sign that she would do so. On the contrary, she said in good temper, "So you've come back. You must be very tired; go and take a rest!"

"A rest!" Ching-erh was afraid that Mother might be sarcastic,³⁶ and so she hurried to the stove door.

"San-ku, sorry to have troubled you. Let me do it now."

「就讓三姑做吧，」媽媽說：「都快要好了。」

青兒到筷子簍里抽筷子，到碗櫃里拿調羹，酒杯，一路搽，一路口里算「一個客，兩個客……」

「青兒，叫你讓三姑來呀，走了半天路，歇歇不好？」

向來只有別人要做事，媽媽說讓青兒來的；今天却叫青兒讓別人來！青兒呆呆的望着媽媽，媽媽臉上帶着笑，像別的媽媽疼她底女兒的時候，故意地罵幾句一樣。

「癡丫頭，叫你歇歇你就歇歇呀，怎樣變得這樣不聽話了！」

三姑從灶門口伸出頭來望着青兒笑。

做事，出力，挨罵，挨打，才是青兒過慣了的日子，

"Let San-ku do it," said Mother, "Everything will soon be all right."

Ching-erh went to the chop-stick tray, and took out some pairs of chop-sticks. Then she went to the cupboard, took out some spoons, and wine-glasses, and, as she cleansed them, counted, "One guest two guests. . ."

"Ching-erh, will you let San-ku do it? Having run about for half a day, don't you think you should take a rest?"

Usually when other people had work to do, Mother would ask Ching-erh to do it; now she asked Ching-erh to let other people do her work instead. Ching-erh therefore looked at Mother *in a stupefied state,³⁷ while the latter, with a smile on the face consciously gave her a slight scolding, as some fond³⁸ mother *doting on³⁹ her daughter would do:—

"Silly girl, why don't you take a rest when you are asked to take one? How disobedient you have become!"

San-ku stuck out her head from behind the stove door, and smiled at Ching-erh.

To work, to toil to bear scolding, and to suffer thrashing, were *the lot that fell to⁴⁰ Ching-erh every day, and she could easily pass a day under such con-

可以無憂無慮地過，和這相反的空氣，她是沒有呼吸過的。斗然一來，不說她，就是在旁邊看的我，一個八九歲的孩子，也有點叫人招架不住，頂當不起，想到裡頭一定有什麼蹊蹺。我不曉得青兒心里在怎樣想，只看見她摸頭不着腦，把一雙手閒下來沒有地方好放的樣子，着實有點悽惶。一定沒有什麼話好說了吧，才訕訕搭搭地問：

「是那里來的這些生客呀！」

媽媽沒有答應，我怕是沒有聽見，跟着幫她重問了一句。

「要你管！」媽媽多兇。

真奇怪，問問有什麼要緊呢，又不是我一個人問，青兒就先問了，爲什麼單罵我呢？我不服氣，口里咕嚕咕嚕起來，青兒怕我再挨罵，把我牽到堂屋里去玩。——向來這樣，只要大人一罵我或者要打我，青兒總把我搶走的。

爸爸從房里抱着水煙袋出來，看了我們一眼，也沒有

ditions, without any worry or fear. But an atmosphere exactly contrary to this she had never had experience. When it came suddenly, not only she, but even a spectator like me, a boy of about eight or nine years old, found it rather unbearable and insufferable. I guessed there must be something curious in the matter. I wondered what happened in Ching-erh's mind, but I saw her unconsciously⁴¹ drop both her hands, not knowing where to put them, and feeling somewhat confounded. Finding no proper words to say, she stammered⁴² out a question.

"Where did these new guests come from?"

Mother did not answer; I thought she could not hear, and repeated the same question.

"None of your business!" Mother shouted fiercely.

How strange? I thought. What did it matter to ask a question. After all, it was Ching-erh and not I, who started questioning. Why should I alone be scolded. Feeling offended, I mumbled and grumbled; but Ching-erh, fearing that I might receive further scolding; drew me back and brought me to the hall. It was usually like this; whenever I was to be scolded or beaten by the elder people, Ching-erh used to get me away.

Father was coming out of the room, with a

問討到錢沒有，就到廳堂里陪客去了。

忽然，青兒也變得古里古怪了：她不說話，也不跟我玩，眼睛震也不震，可又沒有看什麼，一定在想心事。

我聽得廳屋里客人在跟爸爸講話。

青兒好像在想起了什麼，蹣手蹣腳地跑到廳屋背後的拐角門那兒躲着，聽人家講話。聽了一會兒，跑到房里，倒在鋪上，斗地「哎呀」一聲哭起來——沒有人打她，也沒有罵她。

我叫這奇怪的事情嚇慌了。我想一定有什麼禍事，可是奇怪的還在後頭咧。

到了媽媽她們吃飯的時候，青兒還在房里哭，不出來吃飯，三姑去喊，不出來，媽媽自己去，她哭得格外厲害，口里還不知在咕嚕些什麼，媽媽和和氣氣地勸她勸不

water pipe in his hand. He glanced at us, and without asking whether we had collected any debt, went to the sitting room to *keep company with⁴³ the guests

All of a sudden, Ching-erh seemed *to smell a rat.⁴⁴ Without saying a word, nor asking me to play with her, she stared blankly with unmoving eyes, and seemed to be meditating in her mind.

I could hear the guests talking with my Father in the sitting-room.

Ching-erh seemed *to have hit upon something⁴⁵ and *stole secretly⁴⁶ to a corner behind the sitting-room and overheard the elder people's conversation. After a while, she ran back to her room, threw herself on the bed, and, with a scream, cried aloud bitterly—though she had not been beaten or scolded.

I was perfectly thunderstruck⁴⁷ with these strange affairs; I guessed some sort of disaster might have happened. But stranger things; *were yet to come⁴⁸

When Mother and the others gathered to have dinner, Ching-erh was still crying in her room and would not come out to eat. San-ku went in and asked her, but she wouldn't come out. Mother herself went in, and she cried more bitterly, muttering something between her sobs. Finding her good-tempered efforts to console her

好，就叫三姑端飯去給她吃，還拈了許多菜到她碗里。

過了一會兒，爸爸進來。媽媽說：「她哭得厲害咧，您去勸勸吧！」

爸爸媽媽都到她房里去，自然我也非跟進去不可。

「青兒！」爸爸喊了一聲。

她正在哭，聽見喊，忽然一下就爬起來，從舖上一跳，舖面前的飯碗，也帶下來打破了，那飯她還沒有吃，飯跟菜，潑了一地，她下來，卜通一下，跪在爸爸面前，拖着爸爸的腿子，爸爸趕忙往後退，她抬起頭，眼雨鼻涕糊了一臉，樣子蠻嚇人，簡直看不出是她了。她啜着聲音喊：

「相公啊，開恩哪！救我呀，我不去的！死也不去的！」

一路喊，一路把頭在地下碰得騰騰地響。

「你好好的，你向來蠻聽話，蠻懂事；起來，好好地

in vain, Mother asked San-ku to bring a bowl of rice to her, with much good food⁴⁹ added on to it.

After a while, Father came to see what happened. Mother said, "She has been crying so bitterly; wouldn't you try to stop her?"

And both Father and Mother went into her room, and naturally I followed them.

"Ching-erh!" shouted Father.

She was still crying, but on hearing the voice, she rose and jumped up from the bed, unconsciously pushing the bowl of rice on to the ground where it was broken into pieces, with the untasted rice and food scattered all over the place. All of a sudden, she knelt down on the ground before Father, and tried to embrace his legs. Father withdrew in a hurry. Then she raised her head, her face *sadly besmeared with tears⁵⁰—a wild-looking countenance that one could not recognise as hers. With a husky voice, she sobbed out the following words:—

"My good master, be merciful! Save me; I will not go; no, I would sooner die."

As she cried, she knocked her head on the ground with *heavy thuds.⁵¹

"Be sensible; you used to be very obedient and

聽我說……」

爸爸說着，就叫三姑進來跟媽媽把青兒抬到鋪上去。青兒掙，哭，到了鋪上，還用腳把鋪板打得亂響。我偷偷地問三姑，這是怎麼回事？她講：「青兒姐姐要出嫁了，廳屋里的客人，就是來接她的。」

一個炸雷把我從夢里頭打醒了。爲什麼呢？爲什麼要把她出嫁呢？在家里不是蠻好的麼？並且她自己又不肯！是的，她不肯去頂好，去了這屋里就沒有人跟我玩了。

媽媽說：「癡孩子，你不能跟我們一生的呀，總要……」

「我不去，死也不去，我情願跟奶奶跟一生。」

爸爸說：「你是填房，又不是做小。這人家有田有地，又沒有兒女，你一去就當家，有什麼不貴氣？你這們

understand things well. Rise and listen carefully to me”

As Father said this, he asked San-ku and Mother to carry Ching-erh up to the bed. Struggling and crying still on the bed, Ching-erh kicked at the planks of the bed violently with her legs. I secretly asked San-ku what was the matter. She said “Ching-erh was going to be married; those guests in the sitting-room have come to take her away.”

This awoke me from my dream *like a bomb-shell.⁵² Why? Why must they marry her elsewhere? Isn't it a good thing to let her stay on at home? Besides, she herself would not agree! Yes, it's a very good thing she does not want to go away, for if she does, there will be no one to play with me at home.

Then Mother said: “Silly girl, you can't stay with us for your whole life. Sooner or later”

“I am not going, I would sooner die. I would rather stay with my lady for my whole life.”

But Father said, “You are going to be a step-wife, not a concubine. That man has land as well as a rice field, and he has no children. Once you marry him, you'll be the mistress of his home. Isn't that a piece of good luck? Now that you've grown up, you ought to understand

大了，還不懂事，要好好的想想，我們不會害你的。」

爸爸說完，把嘴一挑，就跟媽媽們出去了，我站在她的鋪面前，看見她底朝外的背，不住地在抽動，心里很難過，想跟她說幾句話，可又什麼話都想不起來。

哭着哭着，她翻了一個身，看見我在跟前，一把抓住我的手，用那哭得怪難看的臉望着我，喊了我一聲，她的聲音是這樣悽慘，一喊我也撇不住哭出來了。

「哥兒！我要走了，你不能看見我了！」

她自己在哭，却扯起我底衣服來幫我揩眼雨。我說：「你不是不去嗎？」

她沒有答話，用一隻手伸到枕頭底下去，摸出來了好幾個銅角子，放在我手里，用很小的聲音跟我說：「好哥兒，請你去找一個人，你說……可不能叫爸爸媽媽曉得，你只說……」

things. Think it over carefully; we won't *let you down."53

Father ended his speech with a twist of his mouth, and then followed Mother out of the room. I stood in front of her bed, looked at the spasmodic⁵⁴ movements of her back as she sobbed, and felt very uneasy at heart. I thought of saying something to comfort her, but did not know what to say.

Crying still, she turned herself round and saw me before her. She held my hand in hers, and, raising her ugly tearful face towards me, called out my name. Her voice seemed to be so full of sadness, that it brought out my tears at once.

"Dear brother! I am going away; and you won't see me again!"

Still crying herself, she held up the corner of my coat to wipe the tears that rained down my cheeks. "Didn't you say you would not go away?" I said.

She did not answer. Then groping with her hand under the pillow, she drew out a number of coins, put them in my hand, and said to me in a whisper: "My good brother, will you go and find the man; you'll tell him but must not let Father and Mother know, you simply say"

我正要聽她說，她忽然又自言自語地說：「沒有用處，沒有用處呀，」把身子扭過去，大哭起來。

夜間，媽媽在堂屋里數錢。三姑，三姑的婆婆也在幫忙數。一布袋一布袋的銅角子倒在一個大簸子里；數了，一錢板子一錢板子往媽媽的房里端。我沒有看見過這們多的錢，很想湊攏去撈來玩。因為身上有青兒給我們的七八個銅角子，怕媽媽搜出來了說是偷簸子里的，沒有敢去撈。想到房子里去睡，聽見青兒還在哭——我跟青兒睡在一個房里，因為沒有跟青兒做到事，雖說不是我不做，也怕她要討回錢去。

「媽媽，我要睡覺！」

「睡就睡去，還要抱你去睡麼？」

「青兒在房里哭，吵得睡不着呀。」

As I was listening, she suddenly stopped and muttered to herself, "'Tis no use, 'tis no use!" and turning round again, she cried more bitterly.

That night Mother was busy counting money in the hall. San-ku and her mother-in-law also came to help. One bag of coins after another was poured on to a big tray, and carefully counted, and then one box of coins after another was brought into Mother's room. I had never seen such a big lot of money and was rather desirous of taking some to play with. But as I had in my pocket the seven or eight coins given by Ching-erh, I was afraid that Mother might find them out and say that I had stolen them from the tray. So I did not dare to take those coins. I then thought of going to bed, but Ching-erh was still crying—I used to sleep in the same room as Ching-erh. But now I did not want to go back to the same room, because, having done nothing for Ching-erh (though I was quite willing to do it), I was afraid she would ask me to give back those coins.

"Mother, I want to go to sleep."

"Go to sleep then. Do you still want me to hold you in my arms and nurse you to sleep?"

"Ching-erh was still crying in the room, so I couldn't sleep."

「到我們房里底鋪上睡去！」

我就到媽媽房里睡了。很久很久，還聽見「一五、一十、十五，二十」和銅角子響的聲音。

第二天起來，媽媽不在房里，房里冷清清地。出去一看，媽媽在堂屋里掃地，臉上好像還有眼雨。怎麼，媽媽也哭了麼。

我正想去看青兒怎樣了，媽媽對我說：「青兒到人家家里去了，屋里沒有多的人，你要少到外頭跑，多在屋里做點兒事！」

「青兒走了麼？」我嚇了一跳，她說了不去的，怎麼還是去了呢，甚麼時候去的，哪個把她勸好的呢？

「走了。」媽媽說：「沒有轎幔子，把你們的門幔子拿去了，過幾天媽媽賠你一條新的。」

"Go to my room and sleep in my bed then."

So off I went to sleep in Mother's room, but after a long while I still heard them counting, "Five, ten, fifteen, twenty", *accompanied by⁵⁵ the tinkling of coins.

When I got up the next morning, Mother was already gone out of the room which then seemed to be rather vacant. Then I went out of the room, and found Mother sweeping the floor in the hall. There seemed to be tears in her eyes. Why? Mother had been weeping too.

As I thought of going to see Ching-erh Mother said to me, "Ching-erh has gone to some other man's home. Now that there are not many people to look after you, you had better go out less, and stay more at home and learn to do some work!"

"Is Ching-erh gone?" I *felt a shock,⁵⁶ She said she would not go; how was it that she went in the end? When did she go? Who finally persuaded her to go?

"Gone!" said Mother, "She had no curtain for her flowery sedan-chair, and we took down the curtain from the door of your room. After a few days, I'll buy you a new one."

我才注意到我底房門口，果然沒有門幔子了。

雖說這樣，我還是覺得不能夠相信，好像青兒並沒有走，作興還躺在床上哭。我要到她房里去看看。

「來！」媽媽喊：「我問你，如果有人問：『青兒出嫁了，你爸爸媽媽得了多少錢，』你怎麼說？」

我沒有想到這，答不上來。只好吞吞吐吐地說：「沒有人問我呀！」

「曉得沒有人問你，我是說，如果有人問你呢？」

「我說不曉得呀，我本來不曉得，我又沒有數錢。」

「癡漢嘞。」媽媽很生氣：「來！我告訴你說。你說沒有得錢，人家是爸爸底乾兒子，爸爸看見人家爭氣，沒有老婆，就把青兒送給他了。一個錢也沒有要。」

「爸爸沒有乾兒子啊！」我撇着嘴。

And I began to notice that the curtain over the door of my room had gone too.

Nevertheless, I still felt that I could hardly believe it; it seemed that Ching-erh had not gone, and perhaps she was still crying in bed. I must go to her room and see.

"Come!" said Mother again, "tell me: if some one should ask you, 'How much money did your father and mother get for Ching-erh's marriage?' what will you say?"

I never thought of this, and therefore could not answer. So I just stammered and said, "No one has asked me such a question yet!"

"I know no one has asked you yet; but I mean, if someone should ask you"

"I'll just say that I don't know; for I really don't know I did not count the money."

"You silly boy!" Mother became rather annoyed. "Come! I'll tell you what to say. You should say that we did not receive any money at all. That man was Father's *adopted son⁵⁷ and, finding him a promising man still without a wife, we gave him Ching-erh to be his spouse; and we did not get *a single cash⁵⁸ for it."

"But Father hasn't got any adopted son!" I contradicted.

媽媽一巴掌拍來，我把頭一偏，沒有打着。媽媽說：「人家曉得？就是人家這樣說，你也要說是新收的，沒有來幾回，所以……」

我爲什麼要這樣說呢？前幾天，爸爸教我不要說假話，講了一回司馬光的故事給我聽了。現在媽媽又教我說假話，究竟聽哪個的好呢？我想反駁媽媽，看見媽媽臉色不好看，怕挨打，沒有敢做聲。

外頭有人進來，一看是爸爸。爸爸今天真早，向來沒有這們早的。

「怎樣了？」媽媽問。

「走了，我送她們到塔園里，我怕街上的痞子攔住我打麻煩；還好，沒有事，出了街口，就不怕了。」

「她還在哭麼？」

「哭還在哭，出了城，好像好些了。」

「唉唉！」媽媽歎氣：「跟了我們十來年，忽然走

Down came Mother's palm, to deal me a blow. I dodged my head and escaped. And Mother said, "How can any one know? Even if people suspect, you should say that he is newly adopted, and that he seldom comes to our house, and therefore....."

Why should I say it that way? Just a few days ago, Father taught me to tell the truth, and supplemented⁵⁹ his teaching with the story of Sze Ma-kwong. And now Mother taught me to tell lies. Whom should I follow? I thought I would contradict Mother, but her serious face stopped me, and I did not say a word more lest I should be beaten again.

Someone came in from outside, it was Father. He had got up very early that morning a thing he seldom did.

"How then?" asked Mother.

"All gone; I followed them to Ta-Yuen-li, I was afraid that the rascals in the street might block our way and cause trouble. Fortunately there was no accident. Once we got out of the street, we felt quite safe."

"Was she crying all the time?"

"Still crying all the time; but when out of the town, she felt *a bit relieved"⁶⁰

"Dear me!" exclaimed Mother, "She's been with us for more than ten years; now that she's gone I do feel a

了，真有點兒捨不得咧。這孩子倒像蠻貼心的，哭的真厲害呀！』

『曉得她爲什麼哭呢，作興是聽見說那邊不很好。』

『我想不是那樣，我們待她並不錯咧。』

『那末，過幾個月了，如果就便，就接她回來玩吧；不過遠一點兒。』

爸爸一路說，一路呵欠八口地到房里睡「復覺」去了。

聽這說法，青兒是真走了。跑到房里一看，房里的東西弄得亂七八糟。她昨天還穿的舊衣服，袴子，圍裙，丟在她底鋪上；，一雙鞋子，橫一隻，直一隻地躺在我底床面前；小櫃子上擺着一盒骯髒的洗臉水跟媽媽的鏡子，粉盒子，梳頭盒子……

青兒沒有了！天天跟我玩，跟我梳頭，洗臉，盛飯我

little reluctant⁶¹ to have *parted with⁶² her. This young maid seemed to have been rather *persistent in her affection;⁶³ how bitterly she cried!"

"You may know why she cried so much; perhaps she knew that she wouldn't be so comfortable in her new home."

"I don't think so; the fact is that we never ill-treated her "

"Then after a few months, if it be convenient, we'll ask her to come home and spend a good time with us; it is so far away though."

Father yawned several times as he spoke, and then went into his room to sleep again.

From their conversation, it was obvious that Ching-erh must be gone. When I went to her chamber, I found everything *at sixes and sevens⁶⁴. Lying in a confused state on her bed were the clothes she wore on the previous day, a pair of trousers, and an apron. In front of the bed on the ground was a pair of shoes of which one turned towards the east while the other towards the west. Upon the little cupboard were a basin of soiled water, a mirror that was Mother's, a powder-box, a hair-dress set

But Ching-erh was gone! Gone was Ching erh, who

吃，有時候還買東西給我吃的青兒沒有了！爸爸媽媽要打我的時候，趕忙把我搶開，把自己的背抵住爸爸媽媽挨打的青兒沒有了！

昨天還說，今天要一路到文風塔去玩，去吃人家買的東西的青兒沒有了！我身上揣着她昨天給我的銅角子，眼睛里看着她留下的衣服，鞋子，被窩跟枕頭，『哥兒我要走了！』耳朵還明明留着這樣的聲音，我匍在我底牀上偷偷地哭了。不知爲什麼，我覺得如果大聲哭。媽媽會打我的。

以後，很久很久，我在屋里都過不慣。好像這屋里不光只少了青兒，還少了不拘什麼人：好像不拘什麼人，爸爸也好，媽媽也好，都跟我不相干，尤其是夜間，我一個人睡在一間大房子里，燈一吹熄，黑洞洞地，沒有人做伴，老鼠子們在樓上跑馬，嘰嘰地叫，真怕人。我天天都

used to play with me everyday, dress my hair, wash my face, fill my rice-bowl, and often buy me things to eat! Gone was she who, when Father or Mother was going to beat me, would snatch me away, and bear the beating for me on her back!

Where is Ching-erh now who on the previous day told me that this day we should go to the Wan-fung Pagoda, and taste the good things that someone would buy for us! I felt within my pocket the coins that she had given me the day before, and looked heedlessly at the things she had left behind her clothes, the shoes the quilt and the pillows. "Dear Brother I am going away!" It still lingered in my ear. I could not help flinging myself on the bed and weeping secretly. *Somehow or other,⁶⁵ I thought if I cried aloud, Mother would beat me.

Thereafter for a long period I felt very uneasy staying at home. It seemed that I did not simply miss Ching-erh, but missed every body else. And nobody in the house, neither Father, nor Mother, seemed to have anything to do with me. At night, when I slept alone in the big room, with nobody to keep me company, I was often frightened by the squeaking rats that ran about on the upper floor, and also frightened by the *appalling

用被臥蒙着頭，蒙得氣也不能出，儘睡儘睡睡不着；有時候，半夜里醒了，以爲她還在，把頭伸出來喊她拿夜壺給我，一想起她不在了，趕忙又把頭縮進出，尿也不敢撒；有時候還在夢裡頭想起來問：『青兒，不是說你出嫁了麼？』

青兒嫁去的那里是山羊店，聽說離城里有一百里路。一百里，多遠的地方哦，那是走得到的麼！聽說山羊店在老山林里，四面盡是山，山上廣出豺狼虎豹，山羊店是個很窮的地方，個個都沒有錢，都吃不起米，只能吃粟米，吃包谷；山羊店都是些土頭土腦的人，他們一生不進城，城里的人也很少到那里去的。從前，我不曉得有一地方叫山羊店，如今我又曉得的太多了。

darkness;⁶⁶ after the light had been put out. Every night I buried my head under the blanket, and almost suffocated myself; but I could never get any sound sleep. Sometimes, waking in the midst of the night, and thinking that she was still beside me, I stuck out my head from the blanket and asked her to bring me the urinal; but then, knowing she was not there, I at once withdrew my head under the blanket again, and did not even dare to get up to pass water. Sometimes I would ask in a dream, "Ching-erh, is it true you have been married?"

Ching-erh was married to a man living at San-Yan-din, a place about a hundred *li* from town. A hundred *li*; how very far away! Can one get to such a far-off place! It was said that San-Yan-din was situated in a forest surrounded on all sides by mountains on which roamed fierce wild animals such as wolves, tigers and leopards. San-Yan-din was a poor barren place, where nobody was rich, and nobody could afford to eat rice, but only eat corn and wheat instead. The people of San-Yan-din were all simple-minded people; some of them never went to town once in their life. Town people, on the other hand, seldom came to this place. Formerly, I never knew such a place as San-Yan din, but now I know too much about it.

爸爸說過，過幾個月，要接青兒回來玩的，等着吧。幾個月之後，就會看見青兒。可是過了幾個月，我漸漸把青兒忘記了，爸爸一定也忘記了，永遠也沒有提到叫人去接她。

這一年，我們家里買了二十幾畝田；秋天里，並且從湖鄉里買來了一個比我還小些的丫頭：紅兒。

○ ○ ○

「哥兒，幾天沒有看見你了，一塊兒玩玩吧！」在同一條街上和我們家里隔不得好遠的一家雜貨舖的劉先生碰着我了，牽着我底手，蠻親熱的跟我說話。

他是大人，大人要跟我玩，是很稀奇的。不過劉先生常常跟我玩，玩慣了。

他跟青兒是熟人，青兒引我到城巷子里那跛子吳媽家里去玩的時候，就常常碰見他的。他從舖里偷瓜子，冰糖來給我們吃，他蠻大方的。

Father said that after a few months we would ask Ching-erh to come home. Wait patiently then, only a few months, and I'll see Ching-erh again. But a few months passed, and I seemed to have forgotten Ching-erh, Father must have forgotten her too, and no one talked of sending some one to ask her to come home.

This year, our family bought some twenty acres⁶⁷ of rice-fields. In Autumn, we bought from Hwu-seng another slave-maid a little younger than I. She was called Hung-erh.

* * *

"My young friend, it is a few days since I saw you last. Won't you come along and play with me?" Mr. Lau held my hand and said in a familiar voice. He worked in a grocer's shop that stood on the same street as our house, and not very far away from it.

He was a grown up man. It was strange that a grown-up should ask me to play with him but Mr. Lau used to play with us very often.

He was an intimate friend of Ching-erh. When Ching-erh brought me to the lane where Wu-ma lived, we usually met him there. And he often took melon-seeds and sweets from the shop, and gave them to us in a generous manner.

他的衣服穿得很乾淨，臉上也長得很白，很好看。不認得的以爲他是公子少爺，以爲他是讀書人，不曉得他是幫人家的。

他又是個蠻有趣的人，會說笑話，不拘怎樣不快活，他只要幾句話，就逗得你笑起來。其實，我不一定覺得好笑，看見別人都笑，也跟着笑了。

他常常跟青兒「玩臉」，在青兒身上格癢，有時候把青兒掀在地下或壓在牀上，那時候，我就幫青兒底忙，拖他底腿子，拖不動，就搯他，搯他，搯他；他都不生氣，他跟青兒「玩臉」，青兒也不生氣的。

青兒出嫁的前不多久，我們還在一塊兒玩過。那一天，青兒在家里又挨了媽媽底罵，她一看見劉先生就哭鼻龍悚地說：

「唉，這日子過不下去哇！」

He dressed very neatly; his face looked white and handsome. Those who did not know him might take him for the son of a wealthy person, or one belonging to the upper class whereas he was really an employee

He was however a very interesting man, and fond of *cracking jokes. A few words from him could make you *burst out laughing, no matter in what unhappy state you might be. In fact I often did not appreciate the jokes; but seeing all other people laugh, I followed and laughed too.

He often *made faces at⁷⁰ Ching-erh, or tickled her to make her laugh. Sometimes he pushed Ching-erh down on the ground, or pressed her on a bed, and then I would help Ching-erh by pulling his legs, and if I could not move him, I began to strike him, squeeze him or deal him blows. But he never lost his temper nor would Ching-erh lose her temper when he made faces at her.

Just a short time before Ching-erh got married, we were still playing together. On that day, Ching-erh had been scolded by Mother at home; and when she saw Mr. Lau, she at once burst out weeping and said between her sobs:—

“~~Dear~~ me! How can I pass the days like this.”

「忍耐些呀，」他說：「橫直過不多久的」。

「快點哪，你叫人跟我底相公去說呀。」

「我曉得，這不是說得好的呀，你底相公少不得這東西兒。」他用一隻手做了一個圓圈圈。

「那不要的，他說過，把我留在家裏招人的。」

「那怎麼成呢！我不上人家的門，我又沒有三兄四弟。」

「依你說……」

「莫着急呀，我寫信到漢口去了，一個朋友在那裏做生意，他可以借錢給我。等他底錢來……」

這樣我們就走了。以後我沒有碰見他，一直到這一天。

我們在一條背街里走，他用很小的聲音跟我說話，他底樣子沒有平常那樣快活，板起面孔，像跟誰生氣似的。

「青兒嫁了幾天了？」他問。

「看哪，前天，大前天，三天了。」

"Be patient," he said, "after all it won't be long."

"Make it shorter still then; you should send someone to talk with my master."

"I know that; but it is *not so easily done as said;⁷¹ your master would not part with you without a lot of this thing," and he made a round shape with his fingers.

"He doesn't want it; he has said that he will retain me at home to *wait on⁷² people."

"What can one do then! I've never been to his place, and I have no brothers nor relatives to be my go-betweens"⁷³

"According to what you say now"

"Do not be so impatient. I have written to Hankow, to a friend who is doing good business there. He will lend me money. When his money comes"

And so we parted, and I never saw him again until this day.

As we trod along a back lane, he talked with me in low whispers, He did not seem to be as cheerful as he used to be, and his grave face seemed to show that he had been annoyed with someone.

"How long has Ching-erh got married?" he asked.

"Let me see, the day before yesterday, and another day before that; 'tis three days already."

「那天我在文風塔儘等儘等，誰知道，唉，她嫁到那里去了——哦，就是那一天。」他算了一算。

「山羊店。」

「是街上還是鄉下？」

「當然是鄉下呀，離城還有一百里路咧。」

我以為除了城里就是鄉下的。

「不，哥兒，山羊店是個集場，那里也有街。」

「那我不曉得。」

「那家人家姓什麼。」

「不曉得。」

「你不跟我說，我不跟你玩了。」

「真不曉得呀，曉得不說的，是一個爬爬子。」

「那麼你跟我問你家里大人去，不能說是我叫問的，問到了，請你吃好東西。」

○ ○ ○

忘記了跟他問過沒有——其實到現在我還不曉得青兒

"On that day, I was waiting and waiting up there in the Wan-fung Pagoda. Who knows—alas!—where she's been married? yes, that very day." And he *figured it out.⁷⁴

"San-Yan-din."

"Is it in the street or in the country?"

"Of course 'tis in the country, and over one hundred *li* from town too." My opinion was that if it was not in town, it must be in the country.

"Not necessarily, my dear brother. San-Yan-din is a market town where there are streets and lanes."

"That I don't know."

"What's the surname of that family?"

"Don't know."

"I'll not play with you again if you don't tell me."

"But I swear I don't know. If I don't tell you what I know, I must be a worm!"

"Then will you ask your people at home? You mustn't say that I want you to ask. If you can get any true news, I'll give you something good to eat."

* * *

I don't remember if I ever asked about it for him—
*as a matter of fact,⁷⁶ even now, I still don't know
where Ching-erh lives, nor what the surname of that

在什麼地方，那家人家姓沒麼。只記得他以後就很少跟我玩，並且有好些時候，簡直不能看見他了。到了我慢慢大起來，有點懂得大人們幹的玩意兒了，再碰見他的時候，問他還記不記得青兒——這時候，他已經討了老婆，自己在做生意，也不像從前那樣愛乾淨，好說笑話了。才曉得他到山羊店去過。他說：

「那年年底，我辭了益大里的事，跑到順河去找到一個生意。順河離山羊店三十五里，只要山羊店有人來我就問——無姓無名，實在很難問的；只要有工夫我就到山羊店去問。花了一年工夫，可讓我找到了。她在鄉下，離山羊店街上還有五六里。」

「找到了她，像什麼樣子？」

「哦哦，說不得，說不得，她老了好多，不像從前那樣好看了。她要下田，要上山，還要帶孩子，她已經有一個孩子了。」

我已經忘記了青兒的樣子，小的時候又不懂什麼好看

family is. I only remember that Lau seldom came together with me, and for quite a long period. I never saw him at all. As I grew bigger, I began to understand the affairs that concerned grown-up people. And when I met him again, I asked him if he still remembered Ching-erh.... He had now got married himself, and was doing some business of his own, and did not seem so neat as before, nor so fond of joking as he was. I learned that he had been to San-Yan-din. He said:

"At the end of that year I resigned from the job in Yi-Ta-li, and went to look for some other business to do at Shen-Ho, which is about thirty five *li* from San-Yau-din. I asked any one coming from San-Yan-din about her—but without name or surname, it was hard to get any information. When I had spare time I went to San-Yan-din myself, and after one whole year's patient search, I at last found her. She lived in the countryside, about five or six *li* from the market town itself."

'Found her at last! How was she?'

'Oh, oh. 'Tis hard to say, 'tis hard to say! She's grown older, and not so pretty as before. She had to work in the field, gather fire wood on the hill, and look after a baby too; she had already got a child.'

I could not remember how Ching-erh really looked.

不好看，經他一提，回想起來，她倒真像很不錯似的，于是我好奇地問：

「她說什麼呢？」

「說什麼呢？她說，你底爸爸害了她，把她嫁給一個老頭子。」

「一個老頭子！」我叫起來，剛剛懂得點入事的人，常常把那件事想得格外現骨現傷，一個老頭子，和她睡在一塊兒，我幾乎要嘔。

「那還有什麼說的呢！」劉先生像還很喪氣地說，「我叫她跟我跑，她說算了吧，已經是別人家底的人了，老頭子很喜歡她；她又捨不得她底孩子。我說，我等你吧，老頭子是娶死的。她說，莫瞎說！我不能謀害他呀！最後，她說，她白做了一場人，勸我不要自己就攔自己。」

「所以，你就回來討老婆了！」我譏誚他。

「不，我還到山羊店去開過兩年小雜貨舖，讓她看我

In my childhood, I did not *appreciate the beauty of a female face.⁷⁷ Now with his reminding words, I began to recall that she was really rather nice-looking. Then I asked from curiosity:—

“What did she say?”

“What did she say! She said that your father ruined⁷⁸ her by marrying her to an old man.”

“An old man!” I exclaimed; for at that time of *adolescence,⁷⁹ I used to *imagine things in somewhat unpleasant details⁸⁰. It almost made me sick to picture⁸¹ Ching-erh sleeping together with an old man.

“What else can one say about this?” Mr. Lau said, rather dispiritedly, “I asked her to run away with me. She said that it was all over, and that she belonged now to another family; that the old man liked her well and she did not want to part with her child. I said I could wait, for that old man would die *sooner or later⁸². She begged me not to make such nonsensical remarks, for she would not murder the -old man! Finally she said she had led an empty and meaningless life, and advised me not to waste my time and effort *for her sake”⁸³

“And so, you came back and got married yourself,” I followed sarcastically.⁸⁴

‘No, I remained at San-Yan-din for two more y ars,

是不是真在等，她的老頭子六十歲了，你說有鬼麼，還越過越剛強，她又生了一個孩子，她常常跑來哭，吵，要我回城里來。說就是老頭子死了，也不能嫁我，她有兒有女，有吃有喝，她還要做人的。她說我在山羊店一天，她就不能好好的過日子，你叫我怎麼辦呢？」



在紅兒出嫁的那一年，我離開了我底家，日子真快呀，現在已經十七八年了，我底家和有些懷鄉病者所描寫的是不同的。它既不美麗，也不溫暖，更毫無光輝，我願意忘記了它，忘記那生長我的腐舊的城，甚至于衰老的媽媽。什麼青兒啊，紅兒啊，在一個流浪人的記憶里，實在早已連影子都沒有了。這回得到青兒的消息，完全是意外

running a small grocer's shop. I wanted her to see that I was really waiting. * That old man of hers⁸⁵ was already sixty, and—*what the devil!⁸⁶—he grew stronger as well as older; and she bore a second child. She often came to my place, cried bitterly, and urged me to go back to this town, saying that even if that old man died she could no longer marry me, for she had already a son and a daughter, had enough to eat and to drink; and then had to *fulfil her duty on earth⁸⁷. She said that as long as I stayed in San-Yan-din, she could never lead a peaceful life. You see, what could I do then?"

* * *

I left my home in the year when Hung-erh was married. How quickly time has passed! It is already seventeen or eighteen years from now. My home is different from what some home-sick people might have pictured. It has neither beauty, nor warmth nor splendour. I wish I could forget it altogether, forget the wretched old town where I was born. Even my aged mother, Ching-erh, and Hung-erh, all seemed to have *vanished long ago from the memory of a tramp.⁸⁸ Now it was a very unexpected thing to get news about Ching-erh again, and

的。更意外的是從那替媽媽寫信的人底粗劣的敘述里，我看出那卑微的人底什麼地方，竟蘊藏着一種想像不到的崇高的東西。

事情是這樣：

前頭提到過那三姑的男人——他現在頂少頂少有四十歲了吧，到山羊店那里去了。他去做什麼呢？不清楚，反正城里沒有正當職業的人，總要用各種各樣的理由，方法和面孔到鄉下去的。要是不，他就沒有地方弄錢來過日子。

這城里人，揹着一個小包裏，用雨蓋遮着頭上的太陽，在山羊店附近的路上走，碰見了一個上了年紀的鄉下女將，那女將一隻手牽着一個四五歲的孩子，另外一隻手遮在眉毛上頭，瞋着眼睛向這過路人瞅：

「大哥！你是城里人麼，你貴姓！你不是，看哪，你不是同金兄弟麼？」

城里人楞住了。怎麼連自己的小名，這女將也會曉得呢？

still more unexpected was it that, from the poor narration of the man who wrote for my mother, I found *embodied somewhere in the character of a humble being something un-imaginably noble.⁸⁹

It happened like this:—

The husband of the above mentioned San-ku—he is at least forty now, once went to San-Yan-din. It is not clear why and for what business he had to go there. Nevertheless, people who had no proper business to do in town would find every excuse, method and disguise to go to the country. Otherwise they could not *make money for a living⁹⁰ anywhere else.

This townsman, carrying a small baggage on his back, and covering himself from the sun with an umbrella, was running along a pathway near San-Yan-din, when he met with an aged country woman, who led a child of four or five by the hand, and with the other hand shaded her forehead from the sun, and *stared at this passer-by with strained eyes.⁹¹

“Hallo, brother! You come from the town. You are Mr.—Aren't you, let me see aren't you brother Tung-gin?”

The man was *struck dumb,⁹² and wondered how this woman knew his own name.

「啊，不認得我了麼？我是你隔壁王家里的呀！」

城里的人這才想起來：「可不就是青兒姐姐麼？」

於是笑着打了招呼：

「我說有點兒像咧，你臉上那顆痣還在那兒，只是大了些；再，走路的樣子，也沒有怎麼改。到我家里去歇歇腳吧，牛阿子，趕快回去叫媽媽燒火，只說婆婆說城里的舅爺來了。」

那孩子瞪着眼，向這陌生人瞅了半天，聽見婆婆說，就擺脫婆婆的手，往路邊的小路上跑了。做婆婆的，陪着「舅爺」在後頭講着話，慢慢地走回去。

現在是「舅爺」不住地瞅着婆婆。這婆婆，的確也像個「婆婆」了，一頭花白頭髮，在太陽底下眯着的眼睛，沿圈有無數的皺紋，連背也好像有點兒駝了，不拘從那一

"Ah, don't you recognise me? I belonged to your neighbouring family whose surname is Wong!"

And so *it dawned upon the twonsman⁹³; "Are you not sister Ching-erh?"

She welcomed him with a smile.

"I say, you are not unlike him. The mole⁹⁴ on your face is still there, except that it has grown bigger. And your manner of walking is not much different from before. Won't you come to my house and take a rest. Neu-orh, hurry back and tell your mother to get a fire ready, and say that you have a "Grand-Uncle" who has just come from town."

With wide-opened eyes, the boy stared at this stranger for a long while. Then, having heard what his grand mother said, he withdrew his hand from his grand-mother's, and ran along the foot-path by the wayside. The "Grand-mother" accompanied the "Grand-Uncle" and talked as they slowly followed behind.

Now it was Grand-Uncle's turn to look steadily at "Grand-Mother". With her head full of *silver threads,⁹⁵ a forehead full of wrinkles, a pair of eyes dimmed by the sun, and with her back somewhat bent, she really looked like a grand-mother. *Viewed from any angle,⁹⁶ she was *not at all⁹⁷ like the Ching-erh that he could just

點兒看，都沒有和自己勉強還記得起一點兒來的那青兒姐
姐的樣子相同的地方，也難怪剛才簡直不認得。

走到一個單家獨戶的村子，四面有五六根大大小小的
樹，一間矮小的「三合頭」的茅草屋，蹲在那樹邊的禾
場。——門口橫七豎八地擺着些城里人叫不出名字來的釘
扒，連架什麼的，一個晒簸里晒着城里當點心吃的包谷。

「舅爹，就在禾場里坐吧，涼快些。牛阿子，喊你的
爹爹媽媽出來叫舅爹呀。」

婆婆一路搬橈子給舅爺坐，一路朝屋里喊。屋里先走
出一個二十幾歲的小伙子，藍短褂外頭繫着一條草繩。他
一定在屋里推磨，出來的時候，還不住的拍那身上的麵
粉。他靦靦覷覷的望着這沒有看見過的客人，口里像含着
什麼似的打着招呼，接着又出來一個三十來歲的女將，頭

*recall from memory; no wonder he simply could not recognise her then.

Soon they came to *a scantily-peopled hamlet ⁹⁹ where there were on all sides five or six trees of various sizes. And beside one of these trees on the hay field couched a little low cottage built with three different kinds of materials. Outside the door, there were lying disorderly on the ground certain implements¹⁰⁰ whose names were unknown to the townsman; and there was also a big tray on which were being dried some clumps of Indian-corn which town-people used to take as refreshments.

“Grand-Uncle, shall we just sit in the hay field where it is cooler. Neu-orch, will you call your Papa and Mama to come out and meet your Grand-uncle.”

As this “Grand-mother” fetched a stool for the “Grand Uncle” to sit on, she shouted at the cottage, out of which issued a young fellow of twenty or more, wearing a blue waist-coat to which was attached a grass-rop. He must have been working at the flour-mill inside; and as he came out, he tried to shake away the flour that stuck on his coat. He looked at this stranger-guest in a shy manner and *murmured a few words of greeting¹⁰¹ Then out of the cottage followed a woman of about thirty, wearing a headdress of flowered cloth.

上搭着一個花布包頭。剛才看見過的那孩子也出來了。他低着頭，看也沒有看誰一眼，就依着孩子喊：「舅爹你稀客呀！牛阿子叫舅爹呀！」

婆婆說過了介紹的話，就囑咐那男的到後頭灣里去借酒，又叫那女的做些什麼菜之後，自己抱着牛阿子坐在外頭，跟舅爹談家常。

吃飯的時候，桌上擺着四大碗菜，那些菜是棉油炒的，爲了款待舅爹吧，又多放了幾勺子油，碗碗都是黑漆漆的，分不出什麼是什麼來。

一家人都殷勤地勸着舅爹的酒，婆婆也高高興興地陪着舅爹喝。舅爹呢，暗暗地皺着眉頭，那酒味像陳了的淘米水。

「舅爹！」婆婆說，「這不是別人家里，沒有好東西

The boy who had brought along the guest also came out. The younger woman dropped her head and without looking at any body, patted the child and said, 'Grand-Uncle, you are a rare guest! Neu-orh why don't you salute Grand-uncle?'

Having said a few words of introduction, the grandmother asked her son to go Hou-tau-wan to borrow some wine, and also asked her daughter-in-law *to prepare some special dishes.¹⁰² Then she sat in the open air, with Neu-orh held in her arms, and began to chat with grand-uncle about domestic affairs.

When dinner came, four big bowls of food were served on the table, all being prepared with cotton-oil, and for the sake of entertaining "Grand-Uncle", *extra ladles¹⁰³ of oil had been added. And every bowl seemed to look so dark in colour that one bowl could not be *distinguished from¹⁰⁴ another.

Everyone in the family earnestly urged Grand-Uncle to drink, and "Grand-Mother" was especially happy to drink with him, although "Grand-Uncle" himself had to *knit his brows secretly,¹⁰⁵ for the wine smelt like nothing but water that had been used for washing rice and put aside for a long time.

"Grand-Uncle," said the old lady, "This is not a

吃，你不能見怪。」

這舅爹跟別的城里人一樣，是個精靈鬼，慣會見風使舵，迎乖賣巧，只要有點兒好處，沒有事情他不會做的。現在他在這裡扮着別人底舅爹，口里應酬着沒有約好，也沒有防備的話語，可是說也不能從他的話裡頭聽出一點破綻來。

婆婆喝了幾杯酒，格外高興了，話像泉水一樣地湧：

「唉！我多想家啲，多想回家一趟啊！老頭子在的時候，我當家，走不開。老頭子死了，小傢伙又纏着！哦，舅爹，你不曉得，老頭子死了，族里人都欺侮我們孤兒寡母。這個來拈點，那個來搯點。孩子們小，我一個婦道人家有什麼法子呢！他們還怕我舒服了，造出好多閒話，甚

stranger's home; and if we have nothing good to serve, you must excuse us."

The "Grand-Uncle", just like any other townsman, was a cunning fellow, and was *used to¹⁰⁶ flattering and pleasing people *in various lights¹⁰⁷. There was nothing that he would not do for the sake of gaining a little benefit. Now that he was *playing the part of¹⁰⁸ other people's Grand-Uncle, though he did not prepare beforehand what he had to say, or how he was to act, yet no one could *discover any flaw¹⁰⁹ in what he said.

Having drunk a few glasses, "Grand-mother" became more joyful, and her words *poured out like water from a spring¹¹⁰:—

"Oh! How homesick I felt! How I longed to go home just for once! When o'd-man was alive, I had to look after this house and could not get away. When the old-man died, I became encumbered with these little ones. Oh, Grand-uncle I wonder if you can understand the state of things. When the old-man died, all the relatives began *to bully¹¹¹ us, the widow and orphans. One came and asked for this, and another came for that. As my son was young, and I just a helpless woman, what could we do to deal with them! And then, lest I should live comfortably, they began to gossip and spread rumours,

至于說我不是花轎接來的，舅爹，今天你在這里，當着孩子們說一句，是不是接我的時候鑼都打破了，媽媽也哭，我也哭，都說是很不吉利……可是他們還那樣說！他們人多口多，說一是一，說二是二，那個跟他們打架去！舅爹喲，你不曉得姐姐過的日子……」

「你莫聽媽媽的話，」兒子說：「人老了，喜歡囉里纏嗦，沒有人這樣說。就是有，也已經十幾二十年了！」

「是的，」婆婆說：「我把話說得一邊兒去了，我想家，想回家去，可是幾十年，也沒有回去一回！幾十年也沒有看見一個家里的人！今天看見你，舅爹，就像是天掉下來的一樣。雖說不是親兄弟，總是一家人呀。說你不見怪，就是看見家里一隻狗也是好的。」

舅爹哈哈地笑了。兒子跟媳婦兒抿着嘴也笑了。『喝

and even said that I was not brought here in a sedan chair. Now that you are here to-day, Grand uncle, will you *bear me witness¹¹² and tell my son and grand-son if the going did not crack with beating when I was brought here. My mother cried bitterly, and so did I; and they said it wasn't a sign of good luck—— But still they would say it that way! There were many of them; some said this and some said that—if only someone could have fought with them! Grand-uncle, you have no idea what *hard times¹¹³ I have passed through——”

“Don't you believe what mother says,” said her son, ‘Being old, she becomes fond of *chattering without reason¹¹⁴ No one says anything of that kind, and even if they did, it was some ten or twenty years ago!”

“Yes,” said Grand-mother again, “how I have *wandered in what I said!¹¹⁵ I thought of my old home, longed to go back, but for some ten years I never went home once. Nor for some ten years have I seen any one from home! So when I saw you to-day, Grand-uncle, it seemed as if you just dropped from heaven! And though not a brother of the same parentage, you really belong to the same family. If you'll excuse me, I say it is a joy even to see a dog from one's old home!”

“Grand-uncle” burst out laughing heartily. The son

酒哇！」婆婆把酒往自己口里倒。

「我常常說，爸爸媽媽都是狠心人，把我嫁得這麼遠，老也不叫人來看看我，老也不接我回去玩，真是世上少有的。沒有那一年我不唸，托過多少人帶過信了；有的說找不到，有的沒有工夫去找，頂好笑的是千生那雜種，舅爹不曉得，是族里的一個姪兒子，他找到了，看見了我們家里的高門大戶，沒有敢進去。你說有這樣不中用東西的麼！不過，他總算打聽到了一樁事，一樁不好的事，我爸爸過世了……」

舅爹臨時編了好多話，說大娘很想她底女兒，可是太遠了，大伯又常常生病，三天沒有兩天好，家里像過難一樣，就想不起接你了。大伯死了，大娘一心在屋里燒香念

and the daughter-in-law also laughed. "Have some more wine please!" And Grand-mother poured the wine into her own mouth.

'I used to say that my Father and Mother were very hard-hearted to have married me so far away, and never sent anyone to come to see me, or asked me to go home—'tis *a rare case on earth!¹¹⁶ Not a year passed when I did not think of my old home. I asked several people to carry a letter for me; but some said they could not find the place, while others said they had no time to look for it. The most ridiculous thing is that hybrid Chin-sang—you may not know him Grand-uncle, he is one of the cousins of our clan¹¹⁸. He succeeded in finding the place, but seeing that our old house had such a high front door, he was afraid of entering it; did you ever see such a good-for-nothing fellow! However, he managed to find out one thing—one very unhappy thing though: my Father passed away—"

"Grand-uncle" promptly made up some tales and said that her "mother" had much regards for her, but could not come to see her because it was too far away; that her "father" used to get ill once in every three days, so that the family was every day expecting some sort of disaster, and therefore did not think of asking her to come;

佛，什麼也不管，靠兄弟們當家，他們年紀小，記不得姐姐了。

「哦，是呀，兄弟不會想起我的。他自然是早就過了喜事，小把戲們都有多大了吧，——喂，你們跟牛阿子拈點兒菜呀，看他自己攪起來了，」接着奉了一注菜在舅爹飯碗里說：「舅爹不嫌姐姐家里窮，在這里多住幾天吧，你還沒有看見小外甥跟外甥女兒咧。老大，明天去接你妹妹回來。小的進山挑柿子去了，一兩天就回來的。」

「不！」舅爹好容易吞進了一口麥米飯說：「姐姐，謝謝你們，有要緊的事，吃了就走的，轉來再看你們吧。」

home. After the death of her "father", her "mother" *dedicated the rest of "her" life to¹¹⁹ burning incense and reciting Buddhist prayers at home, and did not care about domestic affairs, leaving them in the hands of her son. He was then so very young that he could not remember his "Sister".

"Oh! No; my "brother" would not think of me. Of course he must have got married long ago, and have grown-up children of his own—Hey will you pick some food for Neu-orh; see, he'll upset things by *helping himself¹²⁰." And then with her chopsticks, she helped a good deal of food on to "Grand-uncle's" bowl, and said, "If our Grand-uncle doesn't mind 'Sister's' home being so humble, he should stay here for a few days. You haven't seen your little nephew and niece yet. Lou-ta, my son, will you go to-morrow, and bring your sister home. The younger one has gone to carry persimmons over the hill, and will come back in one or two days."

"No!" said Grand-uncle, having with some difficulty swallowed down a mouthful wheat-rice. "Sister, I thank you all. But I have some other important business to do and have to go after dinner. I'll soon come and see you again."

「哎喲哎喲！真是親的親不得，假的假不得咧！要是我自己的兄弟來了，他能當天就走麼！怎麼也要過一夜呀！」



第二天早晨，一家人在禾場里送舅爹，婆婆送得格外遠，沒有別人的時候，婆婆說：

「同金兄弟，你莫見笑，在孩子們面前，只好這樣。他們曉得自己有外婆，外婆家里有人。就是一生里不來信吧，做人也做得起勁些。回去拜上奶奶說，我在人家里很爭氣，沒有玷辱她老人家；寫信給哥兒，也給我帶上一筆，說我望他做大官大府，有人來，帶個口信接我，我不會真回去的，還回去做什麼呢！有人來說說，我跟我底孩

Aiya! Aiya! Truly it is said that *one can hardly expect¹²¹ affection from one's relatives, nor can one pretend to have such affection! When a brother of mine comes to my place, he should not go away on the same day. You must at least *stay overnight!"¹²²

* * *

Early in the next morning, the whole family came out to the field to see 'Grand-uncle' off, and "Grand-mother" accompanied him a little farther away. When the two were alone, "Grand-mother" said,

'Brother Tung-gin, you must not laugh at me; in front of the children, I had to act like that. When they know they have a *maternal grand-mother,¹²³ and well-off relatives on the maternal side, then even if they don't get any letter from them in their life time, they will *make an effort to become better men,¹²⁴ When you go back, tell my former mistress that I have always behaved properly in another man's home, and have never done anything that might make her ashamed. If you chance to write to my young master, add a few words for me, that I hope he will be a high official. And should any one come this way, let him bring us word that my "Mother" wants me to go back, though really I wouldn't do so. Old as I am, what's the use of going

子們就都光采些。」

這聽話的人，後來就把這些話一五一十地說給我媽媽聽了，媽媽又詳詳細細地叫人寫給我了。

在一看到這封信的時候，我底心是如何地激動喲，三十年了，這早被人忘得乾乾淨淨了的人，還懷念着她底相公，奶奶和哥兒，不過在孩子們面前，她改了口，叫做爸爸媽媽和兄弟了。爲了她底孩子們，她遮掩了她底出身和一切早年的傷心的眼雨。

我欣幸我有這樣一個姐姐：爲了她曾經幾次想到家，想到衰邁的媽媽；想到我底童年，想到這已經做了祖母的姐姐和她的孩子們。如今倭族的海盜佔據了我底家鄉，我底媽媽早已在亂離中死去。離家只有一百里路的山羊店，

back now to my old home. But if someone should come and ask me to, it would be flattering¹²⁵ to my children as well as to myself."

The man who heard this afterwards reported to my mother everything that he could possibly remember; and mother asked someone to write to me, telling me all this *in great details.¹²⁶

How my heart throbbed as I read the letter! After thirty years, this humble being that has been entirely forgotten by others still cherished the memory of her former master and mistress, and her "young master", though in front of her children, she would call them her "Father", "Mother" and "Brother" instead. For the sake of her sons, and grand-sons, she would *disguise her origin and breeding,¹²⁷ and conceal the bitter tears that belonged to her younger days.

I feel fortunate to have a "Sister" like this. She carries my memory back to my old home, to my poor aged mother, to my childhood, to my "Sister" who has become a grand-mother, and to her children. Now those *dwarf-pirates¹²⁸ have occupied my home village, and my mother died during those *riotous times.¹²⁹ It is said that San-Yan-din which is only a hundred *li* from my

聽說也正是強人出沒的所在，地方的糜爛是不必提的。我

底姐姐怎樣了呢！我底姐姐底孩子們怎樣了呢？姐姐喲！

願你平安，總有一天，你的弟弟會回來看你的。

home, has been raided from time to time by *those
regues¹³⁰ and the place is believed to have been ruined.
What has happened then to my "Sister"? And to my
"Sister's" children? My dear "Sister", I hope that you
are still safe and well. There will be a day when your
"Brother" may come back to see you.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. "SISTER", 本來是姊妹的意思。但原文的“姐姐”是對婢女的一種親切的稱呼，英文却沒有類似的名稱，所以只好用 Sister 一字，而加以“ ”以表示含有特別的意思
2. suburb, 城邊郊外的地方
3. as far as eyes could reach, 眼所能望到的那麼遠，即一望無涯的意思
4. humiliating, 使人感覺謙卑；欺住的意思
5. in swarms, 成羣地
6. buzzing, 作嗡嗡之聲
7. cast eyes on, 把眼睛望着
8. veiled, 以幕掩着，籠罩着
9. here and there, 各處
10. dazzling, 燦然耀日，不可直視
11. lone, 孤獨的
12. li 華里，差不多已成爲“里”字的標準翻譯
13. bother every debtor, 打擾每一個負債者
14. for a trip, 逛逛，走一趟
15. jesuit's nuts, 菱角；本是外國所無的，這是植物學上所用的名詞
16. on the other hand, 反之，反是
17. slave-maid, 丫頭，婢女

18. games with pebbles, 玩石子戲；大概是原文“七子吃九子”的意思
17. thrashing 鞭打
20. bean-curd, 豆腐
21. retorted. 反駁說
22. after all, 畢竟，橫直是
23. never but, 從來沒有不是
24. knitted-brows and a long-drawn face, 愁眉苦臉
25. all joy and happiness, 歡天喜地。這裏用實詞而不用形容詞，是慣用的修詞法
26. a tapering something, 一個尖尖的東西
27. triumphantly, 勝利地，得意地
28. will not do, 不行，不靈的意思
29. an excuse, 一種藉口
30. tell tales, 說是非，先訴(成語)
31. rustics, 鄉下人，鄉巴佬
32. had intercourse with, 互相往來
33. render help, 幫忙
34. in time, 依時，合時
35. flirting, 賣風情，就是原文“野”的意思
36. sarcastic, 說反話的
37. in a stupefied state, 作呆狀，呆呆地
38. fond. 愚誠的，愚直的
39. doting on 疼愛

40. the lot that fell to her, 她所慣遇的運氣
41. unconsciously, 不知不覺地, 下意識地
42. stammer, 訥訥於言, 訥訥搭搭地說
43. keep company with 陪伴
44. to smell a rat, 起疑心(成語)
45. to have hit upon something. 想起一點事
46. stole secretly, 偷偷地跑去
47. thunderstruck, 大吃一驚(成語)
48. were yet to come 還未來, 還在後頭
49. food, 食物; 勉強用來譯中文的“菜”字, 因為英文未有像“菜”那樣普遍的名稱, 他們大概每一種菜都有一個特別的名稱的。
50. sadly besmeared with tears, 給眼淚糊髒了
51. heavy thuds, 沉重的聲音
52. like a bomb-shell, 像炸彈一般
53. let down, 難為, 辜負, 陷害
54. spasmodic, 抽動的, 痙攣的
55. accompanied by, 伴奏, 陪伴
56. felt a shock, 驚了一跳
57. adopted son, 乾兒子
58. a single cash, 一文錢
59. supplemented, 補充
60. a bit relieved, 放輕一點, 舒適一點
61. reluctant, 不願意, 捨不得

62. part with 離開
63. persistent in her affection, 堅持她底情感
64. at sixes and sevens, 亂七八糟(成語)
65. somehow or other, 不知爲甚麼, 總之
66. appalling darkness, 可怕的幽暗
67. acre, 英畝; 中文的“畝”字, 並未有像“里”字的普遍的譯法
68. cracking jokes, 說笑話
69. burst out laughing, 突然笑起來
70. make faces at, 做鬼臉
71. not so easily done as said, 並不像說的那麼易做
72. wait on, 侍候; 招待
73. go-between, 中人, 媒人
74. figured it out, 算出來(成語)
75. by heaven, 天啊, 發誓賭咒的語調
76. as a matter of fact, 事實上
77. appreciate the beauty of a female face, 欣賞女人臉孔的美麗
78. ruined, 破壞; 害了
79. time of adolescence, 青春期; 剛懂得點人事的時期
80. imagine things in somewhat unpleasant details, 想像事物底不甚美好的詳情, 把事想得現骨現傷
81. to picture, 像畫一般想出來
82. sooner or later, 遲早總有一天

83. for her sake, 爲她的緣故
84. sarcastically, 譏諷地
85. that old man of hers, 她底老頭子；鄙視的說法
86. what the devil, 那魔鬼，賭咒的話(成語)
87. fulfil her duty on earth, 盡她在世做人的責任
88. vanished from the memory of a tramp, 從流浪者的記憶裏消逝
89. embodied somewhere in the character of a humble being something unimaginably noble. 一種想像不到的崇高的東西，存在於一個卑微底人格底甚麼地方
90. make money for a living, 弄錢來過活
91. stared at this passer-by with strained eyes, 以矇着的眼望着那過路人
92. struck dumb 驚呆了一陣，像啞一般不能出聲
93. it dawned upon the townsman, 這城裏人明白起來了
94. mole, 痣
95. silver threads, 白髮
96. viewed from any angle, 從任何角度來看
97. not at all, 全不是
98. recall from memory, 從記憶裏想起
99. a scantily-peopled hamlet, 甚少人居的小村
100. implem nts, 工具，農具

101. murmured a few words of greeting, 含糊說招呼的話
102. to prepare some special dishes, 做一些特別的菜
103. extra ladles, 例外加多幾勺
104. distinguished from, 分清楚
105. knit his brows secretly, 暗中縐起眉頭
106. used to, 慣於
107. in various lights, 在各方面
108. playing the part of, 扮演着
109. discover any flaw 找出破綻
110. poured out like water from a spring 像泉水一般湧出
111. to bully, 欺侮
112. bear me witness, 和我作證
113. hard times, 艱難的日子
114. chattering without reason, 沒根據地隨口亂說
115. wandered in what (I) said, 說出題外去了
116. a rare case on earth, 世上少有的事
117. hybrid, 雜種兒
118. clan, 族
119. dedicated the rest of her life to, 把她底餘生奉獻於
120. helping himself, 由他自便取食
121. one can hardly expect... 是原文“親也親不得”

假也假不得”的譯意。

122. stay overnight, 過一夜
123. maternal grand-mother, 外祖母
124. make an effort to become better men, 努力做人
125. flattering, 光采些, 像受寵一般
126. in great details, 極盡詳細
127. disguise her origin and breeding, 掩飾他底出身和
教養
128. dwarf-pirates, 倭族的海盜
129. riotous times, 亂離的時候
130. those rogues. 那些浪人, 指倭海盜言

