

III - 68 - 4. Letter To Miss Smedley - June 20, 1944 from Wang Yong,  
627 Walnut Lane, Haverford, Penna. 9 pp.

June 20, 1944

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Dear Miss Smedley,

I received your letter of June 15th. I am sending you the things which I have already finished translating: the green wall newspaper, the songs, the two booklets, and the Japanese announcement, and the "Wang Jai Chang". I will send you the magazines later.

I have always been interested in Chinese folk songs, which are entirely the people's feeling and thought; they have a great deal of beauty and charm and also a little sweetness and a bit of melancholy. They have to be sung by real Chinese voices and not according to Western ways. If this is not done, the whole spirit is lost.

We used the folk song very often when we were working in the battle fields. We used the traditional form but made new words to fit the situation. I would love to sing some for you when I see you. There are quite a few very good ones.

Now I am working on the article written by Chen I. It is in prose but has a strong lyrical quality about it. I am afraid that I will lose the beauty of it in the translation.

I hope that when winter comes, your play will be accepted by the producer. I will do everything that I can, and I hope that I will be able to be in it, too.

I was very moved by the article welcoming

you to the Chinese front. It makes me very homesick and lonely for those true friendships and heroic events.

Now I want to answer your letter which I should have answered long ago. I think the Chinese people, especially the modern Chinese, have the same feeling about love that Western people have. The difference is in their customs and the way they act. for instance, here in this country when people are in love, they express their affection very directly. In our country, on the other hand, it is little concealed, and taken ~~is~~ very seriously. They would not say any thing about "I love you" unless they know each other very well, but they

can and act the different ways and words as well as "I love you". And I should say that Chinese people are always very romantic in love too. It is hard for me to explain all this now, but I think that when I see you I can make it clear.

About Dr. Lin and her husband's talk--it would depend on the circumstances; they would show their love for one another when they were alone but never when they were in public.

My answer to the old general would be:

We don't want to be slaves to anybody any more as the tradition has been. Of course, we don't want to be slaves to the foreign ideas either. We only believe that we are

human beings and that we should be treated like human beings and not like dogs and oxen. Nobody on the earth today can stop our work because of the force of the drive we feel to save our nation. It is not only the duty of our men. Today we women fight for our own freedom and also for the freedom of our nation. Of course the nation has to come first, because if there were no nation, there would be no freedom at all.

Here are the opinions of my friend Mr. Hsieh about foreign marriage:

1. He would think of his family if he had a foreign wife. Because of the difference in their customs and their way of living, he would take

his wife as far away from his family as possible. In this way unnecessary conflicts would be avoided.

2. He would consider international political problems.

3. Also he would be afraid that such marriage would be unhappy, because of the differences of thought, and their culture, the way of life, and the customs.

4. He doesn't think any problem would arise because of their children. A mixed race is perhaps one important step in the solution of international differences.

5. He would be concerned about all of these problems which have been mentioned. He would overlook the problem of his family and could give up his old relationship with them but could not entirely give up his way of life and the customs.

6. When I talked to him about the Chinese officer who was deeply attracted to an American woman at the front, he said that he doesn't think the modern Chinese, even one raised in the old tradition, would have such a feeling toward the foreign woman. He has fought in the battle fields for

a long time and knows that the Chinese have always had a great deal of sympathy and respect for the foreign woman who helps us at the front. But even if she were very attractive, they would have only a pure comade<sup>r</sup>-affection for her.

I feel very sorry about the Hollywood studio's having stolen the material from your book; I have never had any respect for such people. Too, I haven't yet seen any good Hollywood picture about China; they are always prejudiced and portray the Chinese as different from other human beings.

I saw in a Chinese newspaper recently that

a doctor has discovered that rice is good for high blood pressure, blindness, and for heart trouble. I don't know whether it is true, but perhaps your doctor knows something about it.

Enc.

love,

Wany Yung,

Yung 堃.

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