

White Mountains and Black Waters Nurture Rare Talent (Continued)



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07. 俠義少年（續）

上人自述：

十三、四歲時，我歡喜站在馬上奔馳，願意拿刀弄鎗學武術。我有自己的馬，我騎馬不是騎著馬，是站在馬上讓馬跑，一點也不怕，覺得自己這麼小，就敢站在馬上跑，令很多人都看著我，這是很威風的！有一次，遇到有一個人看我這麼玩，我也回頭看著這個人，沒想到前面有棵大樹，我一下子被樹撞跌到地下，幸好沒有傷著什麼。我那匹馬真是匹寶馬，牠一看我跌掉下去，即刻停止；比汽車煞車還快，站在那兒，一步也不邁。

我小的時候歡喜看小說，尤其武俠小說，《三國》、《列國》都歡喜看，我看過《七劍十三俠》、《七俠五義》。我看完這部小說，就像看電影似的，書中人物一幕一幕地都現在我的腦海裏，這個拿刀，那個拿劍；我都記得內容，隨時可以背出來給旁人聽。為什麼能這樣子呢？就因為心專一。

我讀《三國演義》，看到關公被殺的那一段，哭了三天。因為覺得關公這麼忠義的人，還慘遭殺身之禍，心裏實在太悲痛了，忍不住感慨落淚。我家沒有電燈，用油燈也很省，那怎麼看小說呢？就拿著小說到屋外，藉著雪光這麼看；或

07. Chivalrous Teenager (Continued)

As told by the Venerable Master:

When I was around thirteen or fourteen, I enjoyed standing on a galloping horse, took pleasure in playing with knives and weapons, and enjoyed studying martial arts. I had my own horse, and I didn't simply ride it—I stood on its back while it was galloping. This made everyone look at me, so that I felt important and powerful. Once someone was looking at me, and I was looking back at him, oblivious of the tree standing directly in front of me. I hit the tree and tumbled to the ground but luckily I didn't get hurt. My horse was a real gem: rather than moving when I fell off, it remained standing in place.

As a kid I really liked reading, especially adventure tales such as *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *Chronicles of the Kingdoms*. I read *Seven Swords*, *Thirteen Knights*, *Seven Knights*, and *Five Just Men*. After I had finished reading those books, all of the scenes came to life vividly in my mind. I could see this character wielding a sword and another one wielding a knife. It was like watching a movie. I remembered the books' contents and was able to recite them for others at any time. How was I able to do this? I was able to remember in great detail, because I was concentrated.

I cried for three days after reading the chapter in the *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* in which one of the main characters named Guan Gong was killed. I felt so sad that I couldn't help crying because although Guan Gong was loyal and righteous he got killed anyway. At that time, there was no electric lighting in my home, and we used the oil lamp very sparingly. So how was I able to read these novels? I would take a book outside and read it with the light reflected from the snow; or I would light a stick of incense and read it using the small amount of light that came from the burning tip.

At that time, I did some business with other people. My family

者是點一枝香，用香頭的火光，一行一行地看。

那時候，我也做過生意，和人家合股來做生意。我家裏本來有五晌（東北的土地計量單位）地，東北十畝為一晌。到我這幾個哥哥的時候，守不住就把它賣了，兄弟分賣地的錢，我分到五千多塊錢。我這五千多塊錢到手，我結拜的兄弟趙懷德（音）、邵國才（音）就來和我商量，三個人合股作生意。他們說：「你這個五千多塊錢，將來可以賺到五萬塊錢，錢會一天比一天多！」他們說做什麼生意呢？用機器擀麵切麵，第二天賣麵條。另外販賣麵粉，在五常縣（今已升格為五常市）買麵回來，到拉林賣；又在拉林買靰鞡鞋，到五常縣去賣，這叫作小生意。我當時也不懂得什麼叫錢多、什麼叫錢少、什麼叫賺錢、什麼叫不賺錢，不懂這個。他們來遊說我，我就把五千塊錢交給他們了；可是他們兩人一分錢也沒有出，就用我這五千塊錢來買貨物，等著賺錢。

我負責幹什麼呢？我負責用機器來和麵、壓麵、切麵；第二天，還要到街上，擺一個箱子在那兒賣麵，一斤一斤地賣。有的時候都賣了，有時候就賣不了。賣不了怎麼辦呢？我就把麵拿到道德會，剩多少布施多少。大概也是王老善人（道德會創辦人王鳳儀）顯靈，天天賣的很少，剩下的很多，所以道德會天天有麵吃。

一冬之後，麵沒有了，靰鞡鞋也都賣了，可是沒有錢。他們說生意賠了，過年就結束生意，分剩下的存貨。我分到什麼呢？三雙靰鞡鞋；那時候靰鞡鞋最多值五塊錢一雙，我五千塊錢的本錢只剩十五塊錢。我那時候覺得沒有錢也很好，免得有錢不知幹什麼好。道德會講去爭心、化貪心、圓滿良心，我覺得人都要有良心，不要爭、也不要貪、也不要求、也不要自私、也不要自利、也不要打妄語。

像這樣的事，一般人一定要打官司，可是我不和人爭。我做什麼事情都是吃虧的，不佔便宜，到現在還是這個樣子。所以我常常說我是個很愚癡的人，人家不願意的事情，我就要做，這真是非常愚癡！

【後記】靰鞡鞋是東北的特色民俗物品，「靰鞡」是滿語，意為「皮製防寒鞋」。靰鞡又寫作「烏拉、兀刺」，是東北人冬天穿的「土皮鞋」。俗話說：「關東山，三件寶：人參、貂皮、靰鞡草」。東北話往往把靰鞡的後一個字讀成「嚕」或「嚟」的音。過去人穿鞋一般都是自家做，很少花錢買，但靰鞡卻是例外。因為只有少數技藝熟練的皮匠才會製作，所以人們需要花錢購買或用農副產品交換。

◎待續

had 50 acres of land. When it was transferred to my brothers, they sold it because they couldn't afford to keep it. From the sale of the land, I received my share of approximately 5,000 Chinese dollars. Then, my god-brothers, Zhao Huai De and Shao Guo Cai, came to me wanting to do business with that money. They said the 5,000 dollars could become 50,000 in the future if we used it for business. What kind of businesses did they want to do? Their business ideas ranged from selling machine-made noodles, flour (purchased in Wuchang to sell in Lalin), and Wula shoes (to sell in Wuchang). At that time, I didn't know much about the money and how to make money. They came persuading me to do business with them, so I gave the 5,000 dollars to them. They didn't invest any of their own money but used my money to purchase goods and waited for the money generated from the business.

What was I in charge of? I was responsible for making noodles with the machine. The second day, I put a box on the street and sold the noodles, half a kilogram at a time. Sometimes I sold them all. Other times, I couldn't sell at all. What did I do with the leftover noodles? I took them to the Moral Society and donated them. Perhaps the honorable Mr. Wang (Wang Fengyi, the founder of the Moral Society) was efficacious, because I sold very little every day and donated most of the noodles to the Moral Society. Thereby, they had noodles every day!

After that winter, the noodles were gone, and so were the Wu La shoes. However, no money was earned. The brothers said the business was not doing well and decided to end it. We shared the remaining goods. What did I get? Three pairs of Wula shoes. At that time, the best value you could get for a pair of Wu La shoes was five Chinese dollars. This meant my contribution of 5,000 dollars yielded 15 dollars. I thought it was good to have no money rather than having money but not knowing how to deal with it. The Moral Society advocated "Do not contend. Do not be greedy. Be conscientious." I thought every person needed to be conscientious without being aggressive, greedy, selfish, self-profiting, and lying.

For things like this, people would normally go to court, but I didn't want to fight. I lost money almost every time I dealt with anything. It is still the same now. So I call myself a fool. I did things that most people did not want to do. I am such an idiot!

Note: Wu La shoes are locally made leather shoes. "Wula" in Manchurian literally means winter leather shoes. It is said, "There are three treasures in Dongshan (East Mountain): ginseng, marten fur, and Wu La grass." In the old days, people only wore shoes that were made in their own homes, but Wu La shoes were an exception--they were made only by skilled leatherworkers and were often purchased to trade for other products.

◎To be continued