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A BLOOD LETTER FROM NANHAI

Translated from Chinese into English

by

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A Thumbnail Sketch of China

The Story of the Eight Immortals

English Conversation ABC with Notes

XYZ Vol. I

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Sightseeing & Dining in Taiwan with

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Foreword

A letter is rarely written in blood except in a desperate situation begging for imminent help to clear up one's false accusation and to relieve his intolerable trauma. It is the strongest protest against injustice, brutality and torture by an innocent.

Mr. Yuan Tien Chiou, the author of "A Blood Letter From Nanhai" was a victim of the nefarious Vietnamese communists. His family of eleven was virtually destroyed by those miscreants. During his fatal day when stranded on a coral reef alone, he tried to summon all the prominent religious founders to listen to his complaint but in vain. Before he died, he also regretted that he

couldn't revenge himself upon his tormentors.

Nevertheless, after his death his letter was found by a fisherman and was later translated from Vietnamese into Chinese by Mr. Chu Kuei. Hence his tragic story was known all over Taiwan and in the South-east Asia.

Since Taiwan is the strongest bastion in the Far East defending freedom, democracy and human rights, it is our duty, the duty of 17 million ROC populace, to help circulate his message to every nook and corner on the globe. For this reason we have commissioned Dr. Fook Tim Chan to translate the

letter from Chinese into English so that the deplorable story will be heard not only in the Orient but also in the Occident.

Now the author can sleep peacefully forever without any regret, as his call for aid has been answered and his effort in exposing the atrocity of his enemies is rewarded.

Ying-ming Liao
President,
Feng Chia College of
Engineering & Business
May 1, 1979

A Blood Letter from **NANHAI**

南海血書

translated by

DR. FOOK TIM CHAN

published by

**FENG CHIA COLLEGE
OF ENGINEERING & BUSINESS**

**WENHWA ROAD, TAICHUNG, TAIWAN
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

南海血書

我再也支持不下去了！這些年來我看夠了各式各樣慘絕人寰的死亡，對我來說，死已算不了什麼大事。只是滿腔悲憤，一肚子委屈，不傾吐出來，實在嚥不下這口氣。

在南海中一個不知名的珊瑚礁上，我脫下襯衫，用螺絲尖蘸著自己身上

A Blood Letter From Nanhai

I can hang on but momentarily. In those draconian years I've seen deaths aplenty. I've witnessed the most cruel, brutal, dreadful, grisly and tragic ways of dying of all descriptions. To me, death isn't important anymore. Aggravation, lamentation and resentment seethe inside me. I've been trying to suppress them but to no avail. They have to come out in the open.

On one of the unknown coral reefs in the South China Sea, I peeled off my shirt and applied the pointed part of a sea shell to draw

僅餘的鮮血來寫這封信。我不知道該寫給誰
？寫給天主吧？天主當吳廷琰被殺的時候就
捨棄了越南子民；寫給佛祖吧？佛祖在和尚
自焚的日子就已經自身難保了；寫給當年口
口聲聲爲我們爭自由謀幸福的民主鬥士吧？
民主鬥士正在

whatever fresh blood that was left
in my naked body to write this
letter. I don't know to whom I
should write. To the Catholic God?
When Ngo Dinh Diem was assassinated,
God had already abandoned the
inhabitants of Viet Nam. Should I
address it to Buddha? But Buddha
could not even protect himself
since the day a monk chose self-
immolation by burning himself with
gasoline. Should I file my complaint
to those democratic fighters who
claimed that they fought for our
freedom and well-being during the
war years? Well, these democratic
warriors are now enjoying their
liberty and indulging in gaieties

巴黎、倫敦、紐約忙着享受自由幸福；寫給出錢出力硬逼着我們享受民主人權的偉大盟邦吧？偉大盟邦早已判決我們罪有應得又到別處去耍他們的老把戲去了；寫給我自己的親人吧？我一家至親十一口：大哥死於越戰砲火之中；文姪斗兒在「解放」前一場暴動中爲流彈所殺；

in Paris, London and New York. Or shall I confide my plight to the Great Ally that sent troops to fight for us and financed the war, forcing us to adopt their democratic system and be protected by human rights? The Great Ally has long ago written us off as undesirable people whose destiny was well deserved, and has moved on to another place repeating its buffoonery and capers.

Shall I tell my woes to my own relatives? There were eleven mouths in my family. My eldest brother died in the cannon fire of the Viet Nam war. My nephew Wentou was slaughtered by stray bullets during the riot before the liberation. My

九十三歲的老祖母和七歲的文媛姪女「解放」後在人民政府的照顧下活活餓死；一輩子絕口不談政治的父親在鬥爭大會上被一棒一棒地打死；二哥在集中營裏因忍不住飢餓偷吃了一口番薯被綁赴刑場槍決；大嫂因莫須有的罪名

ninety-three-year old grandmother and my seven-year old niece, Wen Luen, starved to death under the Peoples' Government after the liberation. My father, who never discussed any politics all his life, was beaten stroke by stroke until his heart stopped during the purge. My second elder brother was bound and whisked away to the execution ground to be shot by the firing squad because he committed a misdemeanor of pilfering a sweet potato in the concentration camp to satisfy his uncontrollable hunger. Framed by somebody, my sister-in-law was sent to jail for an offense she did not commit. Owing to lack

病死獄中；母親上船時被匪幹推下海裏淹死
；妻在海上被海盜射殺；文星兒和我一同游
泳來到這個珊瑚礁上，熬到第十三天就在萬
般痛苦中死了，他的屍體被同來的難友吃了
，吃他肉的難友也都死了。海天茫茫，如今
我寫給誰呢？

of nutriments she was reduced to a
skeleton of only skin and bones
during the last days of her impri-
sonment. My mother was pushed by
a communist cadre to the sea and
drowned when embarking on a boat.
My wife was murdered by pirates on
board a ship at sea. My son, Wen
Sing, and I swam together to this
coral reef. On the thirteenth day
of our arrival, he ended his life
after an excruciating struggle for
survival. His body was eaten by
fellow refugees. Those refugees
who consumed his meat also
perished. In such a wide open sky
and boundless sea, to whom should
I write this letter now?



我一家至親十一口都死在共匪暴政之下，你一定以為我恨透了這不共戴天的血海深仇，是的！我恨透了他們！復仇的烈火支持着我才能忍受這麼大的痛苦折磨。但是我還有更痛恨的仇人。吃人的老虎固然可恨，但是把別人送往老虎口裏的那個人更可恨；

My whole family, a total of eleven persons, all met the same demise under the tyrannical rule of the demented communists. You must think that for this vendetta, I would hate those communists to the core, that I wouldn't live under the same sky with them. It is true that I execrate them to the utmost degree. Only determination for revenge had helped me to bear such torturing afflictions and intolerable ordeals. But there is another foe whom I despise even more deeply. A man-eating tiger no doubt should be detested but the one who drags others to propitiate the ferocious beast should be abominated even

燒死人的火坑固然可怕，但是推別人下火坑的那個人更可怕；咬死人的毒蛇固然歹毒，但是把毒蛇放進你被窩裏的那個人比毒蛇更歹毒。是誰把我們送往老虎口裏？是誰把我們推下火坑？是誰把毒蛇放進我們的被窩裏？是他！就是他！是那些「民主鬥士」和「偉大盟邦」。

我是土生土長的越南人，我的祖先來自遙遠的北方大陸，

more. The fire pit that cremates victims is dreadful but the one who shoves innocents into the flaming trap is more frightful. A poisonous snake that destroys human beings is vicious but the one who surreptitiously puts the snake inside your blankets is more malicious than the venomous reptile. Who purveyed us to the tiger? Who threw us down into the fire pit? Who placed the virulent snake inside our bed coverings? Now I'll tell you who! The democratic fighters and our Great Ally!

I was born and brought up in Viet Nam. My ancestors came from the northern part of the mainland.

那已是三百年前的事了。三百年來，我們世世代代生於斯，長於斯，我們已在這裏扎了根，祖國的泥土生育萬物來養活我們，我們死了之後又化爲祖國的泥土。從前作夢也沒有想到有一天會被迫離開她的懷抱。我出生於三十年代後期，兒時依稀記得

Our family history dated back three centuries ago. Our pedigree, with a span of three hundred years, has linked many, many generations together. They were born there, raised there and deeply rooted there. The soil of our motherland had provided them with practically everything to nourish and nurture them. After they passed away, their bodies were transformed into earth completing the cycle of life in the motherland. I never dreamed that one day we would be compelled to leave her tender care. I came to this world in the latter part of 1941. When I was a child I remembered dimly that after the

法國人走了，日本人來了又走了，法國人再來了又再走了，這些印象都很模糊，模糊的連我自己也搞不清楚那些是親身經歷，那些是得自別人的口述。我懂事的時候越南已是一個獨立的國家，所以在觀念中我常常以為她本來就是這樣。我家世居西貢近郊，代代務農為生，祖先中沒有一個人作過「資本主義的代理人」，沒有一個人作過

French left, the Japanese came, and after the Japanese departed, the French returned. Finally the French went away for good. These impressions were rather vague. I couldn't figure out whether I experienced the change of events by myself or the vicissitudes were being told by others. When I realized what had actually happened, Viet Nam had gained its independence. Therefore, in my mind I was only conscious of the present situation of my country.

My family settled down in the suburban area of Saigon. We had been farmers for many generations. Among our forefathers we never had any capitalists nor any running

「封建官僚的狗腿子」，家庭背景一清二白。至今我腦海裏還清晰地留着童年居住的茅屋和下田打漁的情景。靠着父母辛勤耕作和我們刻苦用功，我們三兄弟都完成了大學學業，都有了令人羨慕而自己並不滿意的工作。市區逐漸擴張的結果，我家的稻田變成了

dogs of the feudal lords. The background of our family was clean and honest. I still recollect vividly the scenario of my childhood, the straw hut where we took shelter. We labored in the rice fields or went fishing. We depended upon the support of our hardworking parents who toiled day in and day out in the rice paddies. We also had to endure hardship and study diligently. Eventually we three brothers graduated from college. After leaving our alma mater we found jobs which were envied by others but hardly satisfied us.

As a result of urban development our rice fields were transmuted

建築用地，價格節節上升。茅屋拆了改建成大廈，扇子丟了裝上冷氣，銀行裏有了存款，出門有汽車代步，我們也躋身於都市人之列。長輩們常講殖民地時代的許多苦楚，但是那些都對我太遙遠了，遙遠的和上古神話一樣。後來

into grounds for housing projects and other commercial constructions and the land value gradually inflated. Our thatched shack was razed and a mansion was constructed in its place. Our fans were junked as air conditioning units were installed in the new building. We had savings accounts in the bank. Instead of walking we drove our automobiles. We were now dwelling in the city among other urbanites.

Like many raconteurs, our elders often narrated the many acrid and distressing experiences in the colonial days. But these confabulations were things of the long distant past, like ancient mythology. After

講得次數太多了，甚至使我發生懷疑。越南號稱世界穀倉，種田的怎麼會沒有米吃？沒有油沒有肉，怎麼吃飯？一件衣服，怎麼能穿三年以上？只要肯用功，怎麼會沒有學校讀書？沒有冰箱，怎麼貯存食物？神話，神話，統統是

repeatedly listening to these disgruntled, miserable tales, I began to be skeptical. Viet Nam was touted as the rice bowl of the world. But why had those who worked in the rice paddies no rice to eat? How could they swallow down their rice without the accompaniment of edible oil or meat? How could one coat last for more than three years? If you were an assiduous student why couldn't you find a school to attend? Without a refrigerator how could you keep and preserve the foods? How can you explain all these discrepancies? I said to myself: "It is mythological. Nothing but

神話！請原諒我的愚昧無知，我當時的確這麼想。長輩們說現在的一切都是拜獨立之賜，我們應該知道滿足。我當時心中却大不以為然，明明是我們自己努力的成果，我們何用感激別人？長輩的見識太淺陋了，他們只知道殖民地時代的辛酸，那裏瞭解現代已是大眾化的消費時代？殖民地時代的生活我沒有親歷過，不能拿來和現代相比。

myths! " It's beyond my comprehension. Please excuse my ignorance. Our elders remarked: " We thank the independence for the present euphoria and everything we possess. We should be contented. " I could hardly agree to what they commented. The existing prosperity was due to our own efforts and why should we be grateful to others? The knowledge of our elders was too shallow and superficial. They merely reminisced of the bitters of life during the colonial days and were unaware of the present which was a popularized consumers' era. I hadn't experienced the subsistence level of the colonial time. It couldn't be compared with the current

我只知道越南人的生活和法、美等高度開發國家比起來，還差一大截。直到越南「解放」了，我才恍然大悟，沒有政府的庇護，個人的任何努力都是白費。可是知道的太晚了。

我們國家的北部淪陷了，大批難民攜老扶幼逃到西貢來。他們餐風宿露、啼飢號寒，起初我對他們也曾一掬同情之淚。

modern age. I only knew that the standard of living of the Vietnamese people was still far behind those of the highly developed countries of France and the United States. After the liberation of Viet Nam, I began to realize that without the protection of a government, any efforts would be a waste. But alas, it was too late to find that out.

The northern part of our country was captured by our enemies. Refugees in the hundreds of thousands, old and young, escaped to Saigon. They camped out in the open air suffering from cold and hunger. At first I shed sympathetic tears for them.

後來共匪窮追猛打，趕盡殺絕，南來的北佬又口口聲聲要收復家園，我對着我們惹來麻煩的北佬逐漸發生反感。我天真地以為日內瓦協定就是鐵的保證，我不犯人，人必不來犯我。我又不是什麼行俠仗義的俠客，何苦犧牲自己的幸福

But later, when the communists pursued us relentlessly and attacked us fiercely and mercilessly, it was evident that they intended to annihilate all of us. If we were not safe, how could we pity other people? Those northerners who came to the south swore that they would restore our home towns. However, I began to harbor grudges against them as they brought us all the troubles. I was too naive not to believe that the Geneva Accord would absolutely guarantee that if we do not attack others, others would not attack us. Since I am not a magnanimous Samaritan, why should I sacrifice my happiness and fight

爲別人光復家園，我竟自私到想把同胞推回火坑裏去以求烈火不再蔓延。今天馬來西亞把成千上萬的越南難民推落海中的心情我完全理解，將來菲律賓把成批馬來西亞難民推落海中的心情相信馬來西亞人也會理解。人類永遠學不會唇亡齒寒的道理。

for the recovery of others' lost territories. I even had the malicious thought of dumping our fellow countrymen into the fire pit to extinguish the scorching fire permanently.

Now I have an apperception why today the Malaysians kicked hundreds of thousands Vietnamese refugees into the sea. I'm sure that in future, the Malaysians will also comprehend why the Philipines would throw boat loads of the Malaysians into the waters. People never learn the truth that mutual assistance resembles the close relationship of lips and teeth. When the lips are gone, the teeth will soon lose their protection

魔鬼的爪子很快地伸進十七度以南，叢林中、深山裏，不時傳來游擊隊燒殺擄掠的消息。所幸西貢表面上還很平靜。政府忙於剿匪，我忙於賺錢，素來對於政治沒有興趣的我，只想平平安安地過日子；國家事管他娘。「從不學什麼，也不忘記什麼」的偉大盟邦不請自來了。

and consequently suffer the loss. The claws of the malevolent monster rapidly stretched out south of the 17th degree. Deep in the forest and mountains, news of guerrillas' marauding, arson and massacre reached us frequently. Fortunately Saigon was still calm on the surface. While the government was mesmerized in launching incursions against the communists, I was busy making money. In my life I've never taken interest in politics. I only wished that my days be spent peacefully and I would rather let the politicians take care of the national affairs. Coming as an intruder, the Great Ally, despite its good memory, never

中國大陸的悲劇沒有給越南人和越南盟邦任何教訓。盟邦仍以救世主的姿態，要我們這樣作，要我們不那樣作。以大使館作為司令台和庇護所，運用大把大把鈔票，收買野心份子，到處製造事端。毋庸諱言，那時我們的政府，行政效率是有點頂頂，

bothered to learn something of the past. The tragedy of the mainland China has never taught the Vietnamese and their Ally any lessons at all. The Ally still assumed an attitude of a global savior instructing what we should do and what we shouldn't. It utilized the Embassy as a review stand and sanctuary. They flashed out thick stacks of greenbacks to buy the "ambitious elements" and at the same time spread rumours everywhere fabricating chaotic conditions. We couldn't deny that at that time the administration of our government was inefficient and our administrators were stupid and ignorant. Inevitably, the

官吏難免貪污，人民不像傳說中的美國那麼自由，但是絕大多數越南人民的生活仍能在安定中逐漸改進。只是野心分子絕少升官發財的機會。但是這些缺點畢竟不是好事，更加野心分子誇大渲染，人人便覺得

officials were corrupt and dishonest.

The Vietnamese folks were not as free as the Americans contrary to what people said. But the majority of them were able to live quietly and gradually improve their lot. However, without a very prosperous state the "ambitious elements" had no opportunity to make a fortune nor a chance for promotion. This turned out to be ominous as they decided to create a state of confusion and began to make trouble by inventing stories and exaggerating events. They aroused the feelings of the mob and stirred up the indignation of the general public until they were so incensed that

「斯可忍，孰不可忍！」學生罷課遊行，和尚絕食自焚，激動的情緒使人忘記了大敵當前。少數遠見之士提出警告，要大家謹防敵人乘隙而入。

they became recalcitrant and rebellious to the government. Students initiated their movement of boycotting classes and staging demonstrations. Monks went on hunger strikes and some even set fire to themselves in protest. These incidents were dramatized and made headlines so that the total attention of the public was concentrated on the turmoil and upheaval. They had completely forgotten the imminent danger of the adversary. A few far-sighted intellectuals warned the populace to beware the foes' treacherous plot to take advantage of the obstreperous conjuncture to sneak in and invade us.

盟友傳出話來：「吳廷琰下台，共產黨不來！」信誓旦旦地保證，「只要越南人逼吳廷琰下台，盟邦就把越南置於原子傘保護之下。」我們的「民主鬥士」以壯烈的「烈士精神」在盟友的密切配合之下，槍殺了吳廷琰。鬥士們彈冠相慶，走馬上台，

To add fuel to the fire, our Ally disseminated news that if Ngo Dinh Diem stepped down, the communists wouldn't come. Our Ally even swore and guaranteed that if the Vietnamese constituents could coerce Ngo Dinh Diem to resign as their president, the Ally would place Viet Nam under the protection of the nuclear umbrella. With such encouragement and the close cooperation and coordination of the Ally, the democratic fighters usurped the high spirit of martyrs to gun down President Ngo. They rejoiced over the toppling of the Ngo's regime and were swiftly sworn in to their new posts. To stabilize

盟邦的大軍源源開到，越南人民開始享受「民煮」了。

越打砲聲離西貢越近，行政效率更加預
預，官吏再加貪污，人權

the new situation the elite allied troops arrived continuously. People of Viet Nam commenced to enjoy " People Cooking " * or " Cooking the People. "

As the fighting escalated, the bombarding sound of cannonry penetrated closer to Saigon. The situation of the new establishment was deteriorating. Government officials were inefficient and more bribable, and human rights were

* Note: Democracy in Chinese means

"People Master." The word master is a homonym of "Cooking" and so "People Master" also can mean "People Cooking" or "Cooking the People."

更沒有保障。一次一次的政變，大使館裏一次一次傳出「吳廷琰下台，共產黨不來」的天憲，無休無止的苦難一齊落到越南人民的頭上。偉大的盟友掉過頭來與虎謀皮，用越南幾千萬人民的生命換取「諾貝爾和平獎金」。一九七五年四月越南人民的末日終於來了。當初「鬥士」們要我們相信他一切

ignored. The regime changed hands from time to time. The apocalypse of the highest authorities - the Embassy, revealed repeatedly that "If the president steps down, the communists won't come" In the meantime people suffered incessant tribulations and catastrophes. The Great Ally suddenly turned around and negotiated with a tiger for its hide against the interest of the Vietnamese masses. The Ally exchanged millions of Vietnamese lives for the "Nobel Peace Prize."

In April 1975, the doomsday eventually fell on the Vietnamese populace. In the beginning, the democratic warriors wanted us to believe that everything they did

都是爲了我們好，保證絕對不會砸鍋沉船，他自己也在船上，他自己也從同一個鍋裏吃飯。他說的可真漂亮：「船沉了，不管坐頭等艙或三等艙，都要淹死。」我們當時竟傻得信以爲真。後來船真的沉了，才發覺頭等艙裏還有直升飛機。

was for the good of our people. They assured us that they wouldn't fail in their mission and they would never scuttle the boat. They averred that they themselves were on board the ship and they also ate from the same rice pot as their fellow passengers. "If the ship sinks", they reasoned, "all the passengers, whether they are in the first or third class, have to suffer the same fate of drowning." Whatever they harangued sounded pleasant to the ear. They beguiled us into thinking that what they iterated was true. Later the ship did sink. But we found that there were helicopters for the first class.

看來我們真像他說的「永遠只有十三歲」。

盟友「光榮勝利」回國了，「鬥士」飛往巴黎、倫敦、紐約去逍遙自在去了。越南淪陷後的悲慘日子，說出來他們也不屑聽。誰願意冒險犯難離鄉背井？誰願意到陌生的國度去被人家往海裏推？誰願意漂流到荒島上來吃自己愛子的肉？電綫桿倘若有

It seems that they took us for kids of thirteen.

Our Ally flew home triumphantly with "glory and victory." The democratic fighters jetted to Paris, London and New York engaging in carefree life and debauchery. You might tell them of the downhearted and mournful days of Viet Nam after its downfall but they have no ears to listen.

Who wants to run the risk of leaving his home and country. Who desires to go to a strange nation and to be thrust into the sea? Who wants to drift to an isolated island and eat the flesh of his own son? But I'm sure that if a lamppost had a pair

脚，電綫桿也必設法逃出鐵幕。

在這孤島上我已撐持了四十二天了。叫天！天不應！叫地！地不靈！海天茫茫，有誰聽見我的呼喚？觀世音菩薩！耶穌基督！默罕默德！太上老君！你們聽着！我好恨啊！我恨那些把我們送往虎口、推向火坑、把毒

of legs, it would try to run away from the iron curtain as soon as possible and as fast as possible. In this solitary island I have managed to keep alive for forty-two days. I yelled to Heaven for help but Heaven won't reply. I shouted to the Mother Earth but she wouldn't respond. In such a wide horizon on a far, far away coral reef, who could hear my call?

Goddess of Mercy, Jesus Christ, Mohammed, The Supreme God of Heaven, I want you all to listen. I hate the democratic fighters and the Great Ally that delived us to feed the tigers, threw us into the fire pit and inserted the venomous

蛇放進我們被窩的「鬥士」「盟友」，讓我
活着咬他一口，死也甘心！

阮天仇 絕筆

snake inside our quilts. I want to
settle this blood feud once and for
all. Just let me bite them one hard
bite while I am breathing my last
breath and I will die without any
regret.

Yuan Tien Chiou

My last writing

(Before his death)

譯者附記：內弟有一天到南海打漁，在一個荒島上發現了十三具屍骨和一大堆大海螺壳，這份血書就是裝在該海螺壳裏，字跡模糊，我只將其大意揣摩着翻譯出來。

朱桂

The Blood Letter From Nanhai was written originally in Vietnamese and translated into Chinese by Mr Chu Kuei. The following is his note :

One day my brother-in-law was catching fish on the South China Sea and discovered thirteen corpses and a big heap of sea-shells on an solitary island. This blood letter was found in some of those shells. The words were dim. I tried to follow its main theme and translate its contents from Vietnamese into Chinese.

Chu Kuei