

我的名字叫忆芹，我没有妈妈和外婆，我是爹爹和大伯在街头捡来的，我也不知道妈妈为什么要扔掉我？  
**My name is YiQin. I do not have a mother and grandmother. I was picked up from street by my Daddy and Uncle. I do not understand why my mother would abandon me.**

我的家乡在水乡同里，有的地方水路比陆路还要通畅。爹爹和大伯当年就是坐船下乡去的。  
**My hometown is Tongli. In some places, river transportation is more convenient than the roads. Daddy and Uncle went to the countryside by boat in the same year.**

下放到农村去，因为这里是水乡，水乡第一要会摇船当时到河里去摇，摇来摇去，我游泳水性很好，摇船我三天学会。They were sent to the countryside. Since it is a village full of rivers, you have to learn to row the boat. At that time I went to row the boat in the river, I rowed and rowed, I was good at swimming, I learned to row the boat within 3 days.

我胆子小怕的，坐在船里也怕的。有劲吗？这条船很有劲，你从来没有坐过？过去都是船，现在都是汽车了。所以要让你尝尝味道这条船。我以前不会游泳的，跌下去很吓人的。所以我不敢学的。你敢吗？坐着又不会翻掉的。到乡下去，河里的风大得不得了。吓死人了。你爹爹胆子大，他敢的，我不敢。  
**I was very timid, I was scared even sitting in the boat. Interesting? This boat. Very interesting. You have never tried it, There were boats, now there are cars everywhere. So you should try this boat. I once was afraid of swimming, it was very scary when you fall out of the boat, so I dared not learn. do you dare? you won't fall overboard if you sit down. go to the countryside. the wind was very hard, very scaring. Daddy is not afraid, he dares, I dare not.**

大伯叫阿任，今年59岁。爹爹叫阿施，比大伯小5岁。他俩本来是邻居，没有血缘关系。  
**Uncle is called Arren, 59 years old. Daddy is called Arshi, 5 years younger than Uncle. They were neighbors, not blood relatives.**

1968年，中国所有的知识青年都下乡劳动。爹爹和大伯在农村相互帮助，开始生活在一起了。  
**In 1968, all the young Chinese intellectuals had to go to the countryside. Daddy and Uncle helped each other when they were there, They began live together.**

1976年，爹爹和大伯一起坐船从农村返回小镇，在乡办工厂里当工人。In 1976, Daddy and Uncle came back to their hometown by boat, work in a factory.

后来从乡下上来，户口迁上来，一大船东西都搬上来了，桌子、凳子、竹榻、小菜橱，这些都搬上来了，水缸还有。After they came back from the countryside, their resident ID were transferred back. Their belongings filled the boat, desk、stools、bamboo chairs、food cabinet, all these were moved back, even water cistern。

大伯带回来一把祖传的琵琶。大伯觉得，琵琶最能传递情感。  
**Uncle brought back the lute inherited from his predecessors. He feels, the lute can express his feelings.**

我是一岁半的时候，被好心的爹爹大伯领回家的。  
**When I was one and half years old, I was picked up by the kind-hearted Daddy and Uncle.**

小时候不知给你梳过多少次辫子，天天换花样的，对吧？嗯！现在大了，再这样梳就难看了，现在只好大方点。那你在学校里读书，来不及梳怎么办？不梳好了。不梳蓬头痴子啊？早上来不及梳，撩两撩就好了。I can't remember how many times I combed your hair when you were a little girl. I changed styles everyday, Right? Yes. Now you are grown up, it doesn't look good if I still comb your hair in childish style. Now you can make it simple. You are studying in school, what if you do not have time to comb your hair? Just don't comb. You would look messy if you do not comb? I don't have time to comb my hair in the morning, I just run my fingers through my hair.

你来比比看，这件是你来的时候穿的，太短了，短吧，短得来下面一截都长出来了，你长了多少，把你这些斩掉，哼！有意思吧，好象洋娃娃穿的一样，你总比洋娃娃要大一点，穿不着，你来的时候就穿这件来的。扣子都没了，扣子丢了，难看死了，不要它啊，要留作纪念，你不要它吗，你来的时候穿这件衣服，你自己认为漂亮得来，现在看看不灵了，一个人不好忘本，你懂吗。黄的不是蛮好看的，看不顺眼，现在已经洗过了，以后等你小孩生出来就给你的小孩穿。不要它。很大方的。Have a look,。This is what you wore when you came to this home. Too short., Short? Your clothes are much longer now. How much you have grown, You can cut this part. Well. Interesting? Just like a doll, You were bigger than a doll, doesn't fit. This is what you wore when you came. No buttons, All the buttons are gone.

Ugly. Want to throw it away? Keep it as souvenir, You don't want to keep it? You wore this when you came, You thought it was beautiful. Now you don't think so, People should not forget the past, Get what I mean, Isn't the yellow color look good? It doesn't look good, It is clean, You can give it to your child when you have a baby, Want to throw away. You are generous.

现在, 乡办工厂不景气。爹爹和大伯都下岗了。我们家里靠着一点救济金生活, 经济发生了困难, 爹爹领着我  
去挖野菜 Now, the business at the factory is not good, Daddy and Uncle have been laid off. We live on the little  
welfare, we have difficulty, Daddy takes me to get wild vegetables.

爹爹教我识别野菜, 有的野菜很好吃, 有的野菜吃了会中毒。Daddy helped me identify the different wild  
vegetables from grass, some wild vegetables taste good, some are poisonous.

以前 60 年代的时候, 有的人把它挖出来, 就是当野菜烧饭吃的这个草, 人吃了之后, 人会难过, 会呕的, 会死  
吗, 死不会死的, 要中毒的, 吃得多就不行了。61 年的时候, 我也上过当, 就不懂这个草, 掺在饭里吃的, 结果  
呕得一塌糊涂, 就是这个草。During the 1960's, Some people dug these, and ate them as food, This is grass, People would  
feel sick after eating it, would vomit. Will people die? will not die, will be poisoned, Can not eat too much. In 1961, I  
ate it, I didn't know this, mixed together with rice, in the end I felt very sick, it was this grass.

你和伯伯谁力气大? 你伯伯人比我大, 力气我比他大, 一个我从小做惯, 还有一个到乡下去我不怕苦, 在乡下  
干活时好胜心强, 年纪轻的时候都有好胜心的, 在农村随便什么事, 我都要做得比别人好, 用功, 自己钻研, 所以  
农村里的农活, 连农民不会做的, 我都会做。

Who is stronger, You or Uncle? Your uncle is bigger than me, but I am stronger than him. I have a habit from when I  
was little, plus I was not afraid of hard work, I was very competitive in the countryside, I was very competitive when I was  
young, Now matter what I did in the countryside, I would always do better than the others, Hardworking, Focus. So all the  
farm work, even some of the work the farmers could not do, I could.

伯伯虽然人大, 但是他说话声音还有其他都像女的。以前到农村去干农活, 他都不习惯, 他干的都是女人的活。  
所以他的工分, 就是农村按劳取酬的工分很低的, 他干的都是女人的活, 那个时候以 10 分为标准; 他只能拿 5 分、  
6 分。小活, 女人做的小活, 我干的是男人的活。Even though Uncle is bigger, his voice sounds feminine. When he was  
in the countryside, He was not used to the hard work, All he could do was women's work. So what he did, was the  
lowest paid in the countryside, All the female's work, At that time the standard payment was 10 points; he could only get  
5 to 6 points. Light work, Female's work, I did the man's work.

吃草, 短命羊。Eat grass, Short-lived sheep.

大伯阿任从小过继给姑奶奶做养子, 姑奶奶大家闺秀, 琴棋书画样样都会, 她终身没有出嫁。她把弹琵琶和针  
线活教会了大伯, 大伯又把这技艺教给了我。Uncle was adopted by his Aunty as her son when he was very little. His  
Aunty was from a well-breed family, She was good at music, chess and painting. He never married. She taught Uncle  
to play the Lute and sew. Uncle passed these techniques to me.

你的姑奶奶, 我们叫继爹, 继爹这个人很好的, 没火气的。从来不打人的。Your grand-aunty, we called her step-dad .  
Step-dad was very kind, never lost her temper, and never abused others.

女的为什么要叫她继爹啊? 继爹因为没有出门, 家里当家的, 耽搁了她的青春。没有出嫁, 我过房给她, 所以  
叫继爹。她孤苦伶仃的。Why do you call a woman a step-dad? Because step-dad never married, a master of her home,  
her youth passed away, could not get married, I was adopted by her, so I called her step-dad, She had a poor lonely life.

你为什么叫忆芹呢? 就是回忆她。她叫任芹生, 你领来叫忆芹, 就是为了回忆她, 为什么要回忆她啊? 继爹的  
人好啊, 她本人也喜欢看书, 她的知识很丰富的, 我小时候和她一起睡觉。每天都讲故事的, 水浒传, 都要说的,  
红楼梦, 三国志都讲得出。Why are you called YiQin? Just to remember her, Her name was Ren Qinsheng, You were  
adopted as Yiqin, Just to remember her. Why do we have to remember her? Step-dad was very nice, she liked to read, had  
good knowledge, When I was with her, everyday before bed, she would tell me stories, The Legend of Shui Hu, all of them,  
The Dream of Red Chamber, The Record of Three States, she could tell all of them.

她从来不为自己想, 都是为别人。She never thought about herself, only for others.

清贫的姑奶奶什么也没有留下，只留下一把琵琶作为传家宝。 **Poor grand-aunty, didn't leave anything behind, only a lute as a heritage.**

那个时候，我和小施到上海去学裁缝，还是在乡下的时候，学裁缝要吃饭的。吃饭钱她每月十块钱寄给我，她一个人用十块钱，十块钱，一个菜，一个咸菜吃一个礼拜。At that time, Arshi and I went to Shanghai to learn tailoring, even in the countryside, you had to have money to live, she mailed me 10 Yuan per month for living, she herself spent 10 Yuan. 10 yuan, a dish, a pickle could last one week.

大伯有什么苦楚，好象都愿意对琵琶倾诉。 **Whatever troubles uncle has, he seems to express them through the lute.**

小时候，我在镇上有名的丽则女校读书。听大伯说，姑奶奶在丽则女校里教过书。 **When I was young, I studied in the famous LiCe Girl School, Uncle said, Grand-aunty used to teach there.**

教室里经常会飞来蝙蝠，据说蝙蝠会带来福气。 **Sometimes bats (BianFu) flew into the classroom, It is said the bats can bring fortune.**

蝙蝠的蝙你会写吗？一个虫字偏旁一个扁对吧，蝠呢？蝠一个虫字偏旁，一个福的福呀！Can you write Bian? A worm plus a Bian? How about Fu? A worm, plus a fortune.

翅膀，上面有爪子蛮吓人的。要放超声波，放出去，然后碰到东西再回来，回到耳朵里，刚刚发现你很聪明的嘛 Wings, With claws, very scaring. giving off ultrasonic waves, let it go, bounce off something and turn back, back to your ears. I just found out you are very smart!

大伯任家，是同里镇上的大户人家。 **Uncle is from Ren's family, a prestigious family in Tongli.**

这条弄堂很暗，就靠这点亮光。这条弄堂热天的时候很凉快的，小时候剪莲心，一直在这里剪的，夏天的时候，屋子里呆也呆不下去，屋里热呀，这条弄堂阴凉得不得了，全在这里剪莲心。你看这个房子呀，不是正儿巴经的，都是接出来的。这里早，那里晚，这个地方以前是扇门。It is very dark in this lane, just rely on this light. It is very cool in summer, We used to cut lotus seeds, all the time there, In summer, it was difficult to stay home, because it was hot. It was very cool in this lane. Everybody cut the lotus seeds there. Look the houses, not well planned, all crowded. this one was build earlier, that one later. This place used to be a door.

任家的后代，大多到上海、苏州去寻找出路。唯有姑奶奶留在小镇，守着这份家业。 **The ancestors of Ren's family, most of them went to Shanghai and Suzhou for a living, only grand-aunty stayed in the town, watching over the family property.**

继爹以前就是当中这一间，窗下面有个书桌，她没人的时候就一个人看看书，练练字她的毛笔字很好的，有人来了，她就一起说笑玩耍了。她老小都谈得来，老人小孩都谈得来，相当和善。我们都很喜欢跟她说话，现在的人说起来博古通今，我们同里的人就叫她才女。The one in the middle used to be grand-aunty's room. There was a desk against the window. When she was alone she would like to read, and practice calligraphy. She was good at brush calligraphy. If she had some visitors, she would like to chat and joke with them. She was easy-going, whether they were elders or kids. She was very nice to people, We all liked to talk with her. Nowadays people say "know the history and current events". We called her the talent of Tongli.

当家的人不出嫁？当家的人出嫁的也有的，为什么不出嫁？不让她出嫁？出嫁了家里谁来管？我父亲也不管，家里大大小小的事情都是她来管。所以不出嫁。 The master of the family never married, there were some exceptions, Why not get married, because she was not allowed, otherwise who would have taken care of the house. , My father never took care of the house, She had to take care of all the issues at home, so she could not marry.

姑奶奶后来在这幢老屋里去世了。现在，为了供我读书，爹爹大伯忍痛卖掉了姑奶奶住过的老屋。 **Grand-aunty later on passed away in this house. Now, to support my studies, Daddy and Uncle very reluctantly sold the house.**

小时候，我经常去退思园玩，退思园就是我们任家祖先建造的。后来，任家的家境衰落了，退思园也归公家所有了。 **When I was little girl, I used to go to TuiSi Garden. It was build by Ren's ancestor. Later, Ren's family circumstances declined. TuiSi Garden was taken away by the government.**

退思园和苏州园林一起被列为世界文化遗产，风景非常优美。 **TuiSi Garden and SuZhou Garden are all listed as**

## **World Culture Heritage, They are very beautiful.**

**我喜欢听爹爹大伯他们讲过去的故事。我们任家的祖先任兰生，在安徽当过大官，后来他被罢免回家。I liked to listen to Daddy and Uncle talking about the past, Our ancestor, Ren Lanshen, used to be a big officer in AnHui, Then he was fired.**

任兰生罢职回家，怎么会罢职呢？据说他是副官，打仗的时候，那时候捻军起义，捻军就是农民起义啦，他打的时候，手下的人把捻军打得血流成河，那么他不忍心，他认为是中国人杀中国人呀，所以他命令下面尽量少杀，最好不杀，这时候做官相当复杂的，那么反对他的那一派，就向慈禧太后奏一本，说他打捻军的时候，和捻军有联系，这样子，慈禧太后就听信一面之词，她当然是恼火成怒，把他罢职回家。那么罢职回家之后，他就想想看造这个园。为什么叫退思园，因为啥名堂呢？他退则思过，退下后想想在任上的时候，有没有做错什么事情，有没有做对老百姓没好处的事情，他想来想去，那时候就只对清朝忠心，他对清朝相当忠心，没有什么坏处，所以懊丧得不得了。Ren Lanshen was fired, Why? It is said he was a deputy officer, When they had a battle, At that time Nian's Army revolted. It was a farmers uprising. He was in the battle. His army killed Nian's army. He couldn't bear that. He believed it was Chinese killing Chinese, so he ordered his soldiers to kill as few as possible, or better not to kill anyone, It was very complicated to be an officer, then someone who was against him, filed a report to Emperor CiXi, saying when he fought against Nian's Army, he had relationship with them, In this way, Emperor CiXi believed these words, was very angered with him, and fired him. After he returned home, he built this garden. Why did he call this TuiSi Garden, for what reason? He returned and thought, thinking about the time he was on the duty, he didn't do anything wrong, didn't do any harm to the civilians, he thought back and forth, At that time he was completely loyal to the Qin Dynasty, very loyal, Nothing bad about this, So he felt regret.

**退思园的故事，我听过许多回了，退思园就是让人退一步，想一想，有没有走错路。I heard a lot about the story of TuiSi garden, and many times, TuiSi garden allowed people to take a step back, have a second thought, making sure not to take a wrong road.**

**镇上有一家百年历史的南园茶楼，大伯也有一帮乐队朋友。There is a South Tea House with about a hundred years' old. Uncle has lots of musician friends there.**

你弹琵琶，我也是亲眼目睹的，你跑出跑进都背着琵琶，一路走一路弹，琵琶弹得就是迷呀，一面走路，要么吃饭的时候才放下琵琶，61年唱许仙，一个女演员演白娘娘很矮，许仙很高，那个时候只有几岁啦，那个时候只有19岁啊，那个白娘娘那么矮，许仙那么高，许仙跪着跟白娘娘一样高，笑死了。许仙在断桥，小青拿把剑要杀掉许仙。隔壁的小女孩说，不要杀呀，他疼的！You play the lute, I saw it, You carried the Lute wherever you go, playing all the way, so absorbed in the playing, Only stopping when you have to have meals. You play Xuxian in 1961, the actress who played white snake maid was very short, Xuxian was very tall, How old were you at that time? only 19 years' old. The white snake maid was so short, Xuxian was so tall. Xuxian was as tall as the white maid when he knelt down. Xuxian was in the broken bridge, Xiao Qin took a sword to kill xuxian, a girl from next door crying: don't kill him, He will feel painful!

**大伯来南园茶楼弹琵琶，为茶客助兴，赚一点零碎钱。Uncle came to the South Tea House to play the Lute, adding some happiness, earning some small money.**

**我的记忆里没有妈妈的任何印象，可我觉得大伯比妈妈还要亲。I don't have any impression of mother, But I felt Uncle is much closer than my mother.**

**我读书也比较用功，大伯说，读好书，才会有出路。当年，他们想读书，也没法读，只好下乡去干农活。I am very hardworking in my studies. Uncle said, only by studying hard, can you have good way out. At that time, they were eager to study, but no way, they had to go to the countryside to do hard work.**

**大伯待我真好，天冷了，为我冲好了热水袋，生怕我冻着。Uncle treated me very well, When it is cold, he would always fill the hot water bag, didn't want me to suffer the cold weather.**

**我和同学都想考个好学校，将来找个赚钱的好工作。My classmates and I all want to be enrolled in a good school, so we can get good job.**

等到你领第一份工资，请我去吃肯德基哦，还吃肯德基啊？第一份工资，现在吃吃肯德基呀，到时候说不定请

你去吃必胜客了。反正你领了第一份工资要请我去，哦。When you get your first month's salary, you should take me to KFC. KFC? First month salary for KFC, Maybe I will take you to Pizza Hut when I get my first month's salary. No matter where, you should treat me when you get your first month salary. OK。

我们这个年代，青年人追求时尚，都有崇拜的偶像，我最喜欢的男歌手是周杰伦和 F4，我把他们的大头像贴在床头，贴在天花板上，随时可以看到。In our generation, young people seek to be in fashion, All praise idols, my favorite pop singers are Jay Zhou and F4, I put their pictures beside my bed, and on the ceiling, so I can see them anytime.

我考取了苏州的专科学校，我要在雨中离开小镇同里，我和大伯依依不舍。I was enrolled to Suzhou Professional school, I will leave Tongli in the rain, Uncle and I felt reluctant to leave each other.

我在苏州学校读书很愉快，我学的是化学，经常做实验。我将来想做一个药剂师，我有时候也很想家。I am very happy in Suzhou, My major is Chemistry, I do a lot of experiments. I want to be a pharmacist. I am homesick sometimes.

我去了苏州，家里冷静多了。我也奇怪，除了琵琶，为什么没有女人走进爹爹和大伯的心坎。After I left for Suzhou, it became quiet at home. I felt very strange, Aside from the lute, Why there are no woman go to Uncle's heart?

那你伯伯他们有没有吵架？吵架啊在我印象中好象没有哎，真的没有哎，不会吧，那么好？当然了，很和睦的，我也不知道，反正自从我懂事以来，我记得他们没吵过，嘿嘿，厉害吧！在家谁做主啊？谁最大？我在家啊，当然我最大喽，！然后我想想，在家我是第一把交椅，我在家里做公主，然后其它事情，大事我爸爸管，小事我伯伯管没什么大事，一般都是小事。So your uncle and Daddy never argue with each other? Argue, I never had any impression of that, No argument. Impossible, Such a good relationship? Of course, Very peaceful to each other. I do not know, In my memory, I have never seen them arguing with each other. He He, Unbelievable! Who is dominant at home? Who? When I was at home? Of course it was me Then let me think, At home I was number One, I was the princess, besides that, Daddy takes care of big issues, Uncle takes of minor issues. We didn't have big issues, all small issues in general.

我十岁生日的时候，我还是过生日的嘛，十岁是大生日，我爸说人一出生，十岁，然后三十岁、六十岁、八十岁都是大生日，其他都是小的，十岁生日蛮大的，然后十岁我过生日嘛，还去盘了一个头，烫了个新娘子那样的头，两个一曲一曲的下来，好玩的来，我爸给我买了一个特大号的蛋糕，上面插了好多蜡烛，然后很多人，我们那边就是，我请了好多小朋友，围在蛋糕那边指来指去，怎么切，怎么切，好玩的来，很开心的。When I was 10 years old, I had my birthday celebration, 10th birthday is a big birthday, Daddy said the day a person is born、10 years、, then 30 years、60 years、80 years are all big birthdays, the rest are small birthdays. My 10<sup>th</sup> year was a big birthday, I celebrated my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, I had my hair braided. permed my hair like a bride, two threads of curly hair were hanging down from both sides, Daddy bought a super large birthday cake for me, very cute, with lots of candles. Then we invited many people, From my side, I invited lots of my small friends. They surrounded the cake, pointing at it, suggesting how to cut it. very interesting, very happy!

我们家里分工明确，大伯主内，做细活。爹爹主外，管钱和干力气活。We have very clear work assignments at home, Uncle takes care of issues at home, doing light work. Daddy takes care of issues outside, controlling the money and doing hard work.

爹爹年龄虽然比大伯小，可家的大事都由他来做主。Even though Daddy is younger than Uncle, he decides all the big issues at home.

爹爹大伯收养我是很不容易的，忍受了不少风言凉语。It was not easy for Daddy and Uncle to adopt me, they endured lots of gossips.

我们家里养着一对娇凤鸟，一雌一雄，大伯喜欢逗鸟。We raise a pair of birds, a male and a female, Uncle likes to tease the birds.

我没有妈妈和外婆，可我有两个爸爸来疼爱我，我也知足了。I do not have a mother or a grand-mother, But I have two fathers to take care of me. I am satisfied.

油菜花开了，爹爹和大伯一起去当年下乡的地方，那个地方叫双庙，那时庙里已经没有和尚。爹爹和大伯下乡时，都是二十来岁的小伙子，可是不知道什么原因，没有姑娘看上他们。他们只好自己照顾自己。在那里，爹爹帮助大伯干农活，大伯帮爹爹做家务，他俩相互依靠，谁也缺不了谁。**Spring approaches, Daddy and Uncle went to the countryside. That place is called ShuangMiao Temple, At that time there was no Buddha in the temple. When Daddy and Uncle went to the countryside, they were in their twenties, but I don't know why, but I don't know why, no girls would fall in love with them. They had to take care of each other. There, Daddy helped Uncle do the hard work, Uncle helped Daddy do the domestic work. They relied on each other, They could not leave each other.**

他帮我做的多，重的农活都是他做的，这时候我年纪轻，力气大，随便什么农活都不怕做，到农村好奇心强，随便什么名堂都要去学，样样都要学，他嘛，人看看蛮大的啦，那个时候瘦了，后来胖出来了，干活干不动，原来他家庭是地主家庭，本身家里不做惯的，到农村来了，就是赤脚也不会做，衣裳破了都是他做的，他样样会的，结绒线什么的样样会，女的手艺不会做要问他的，这些他倒都会的，家里面的事情，都弄得清清爽爽的。He helped me a lot, All the hard work was done by him. At that time I was young, could do any farm work, and strong, I was very curious in the farm land, I wanted to learn everything, anything. With regard to him, he looked big, thinner, then fat, could not do the hard work, He came from a propertied family, never did any hard work at home, when he arrived in the countryside, he could not go barefoot, He could sew his clothes. He could do every kind of thing, knitting, all the work for woman, he knew all the techniques, for the domestic issues, he could sort out.

从农村到小镇，大伯给爹爹整整烧了三十多年的饭，没有一点怨言。**From countryside back to town, Uncle cooked for Daddy for 30 years, No complaints.**

大伯也有苦楚，只要他一弹起琵琶，什么样的忧愁也飞走了。爹爹是大伯最好的知音。琵琶声声，伴随他们走过了一段难忘的岁月。**Uncle has his troubles too, As long as he plays the lute, all the troubles seem to go away. Daddy is the best listener. The music of lute, accompanied them through the unforgettable times.**

在农村时，爹爹和大伯就会做豆腐。**In the countryside, Daddy and Uncle could make Tofu.**

怎么会想起做豆腐的，做豆腐倒得蛮好的，不错的，下午起磨烧豆腐浆，做好豆腐，一块一块划好，放在桶里然后早上出去卖，摇着船，卖到很远，一个个村都跑，带到每个村口去喊，要买豆腐吗，要买豆腐吗，农民都出来了，一斤黄豆做出来的豆腐卖8分钱，当天能做多少，20多板，总归卖到吃饭，总归卖光了回家，上午出去，卖到中午回家，然后下午再起磨，起磨再做。How come they could make Tofu? It is not bad to make Tofu. not too bad. boiled the soybean juice, They milled the beans in the afternoon, tofu would be done, They cut them into pieces, put them in the buckets, then would go out to sell them the next morning. They rowed the boat. They went far away to sell it, every village cry out in every village: Anybody want Tofu? Anybody want Tofu? The farmers came out. Tofu made from a half kilo soy bean could sell 8 fen, How many kilo they made a day, 20 boards, They would sell until dinner time, Would not go home until they sold all of them, They would leave in the morning, get home after selling them all by noon, and then mill the soy beans in the afternoon, then made Tofu.

做豆腐有许多道工序，也是需要耐心的。**There are many steps in making Tofu, and needs lots of patience.**

相互帮助，生活起居我包了，他什么都不干，衣服也不洗袜子也不洗，要穿衣服都要问我的，比如晒被子，晚上收进来了，放在床上没有给他分好，他不知道的，我盖哪条被子，这样的，太阳晒了以后，要告诉他这是你的，要关照好，不关照好他就知道了。We helped each other, I was responsible for the daily life, He did nothing, no laundry, not even washing his socks. even asked me what to wear, for example air the sheet under the sun, took it back at night, if I didn't separate the sheets for him, he didn't know, which sheet was mine. So, after the sheets were taken home I had to tell him, this is yours, I had to take good care of this, otherwise he didn't know.

好强的爹爹，也有依赖大伯的地方。大伯对爹爹的关怀真是无微不至。**Independent daddy, also had to rely on Uncle. Uncle took good care of Daddy also.**

后来我过来以后，我本身不会做家务的正好和他一起，他都会的，做衣服大襟的单胸的，琵琶纽我也会做的，打葡萄结的我也会做的，中式衣服都会的，旗袍现在装袖的，以前不是装袖的，是连着的，现在做旗袍袖子是装上去的，以前不剪掉的，连着的，裁缝是到上海去学的，不过姑妈说的，你们总归要有一门手艺，没手艺的话，将来

吃饭要成问题的。After I moved in, I had no experience doing house work, fortunately he could do everything。Tailoring front of garment、single cover, Pipa buttons were all made by me, I could also make knots in grapes style, I could also do cloth in Chinese style, Now they put sleeves on QiPao, not like these before, connected together, Now people put sleeves on Qipao, they never cut them before connected。学 We learned tailoring in Shanghai, Auntie said , After all, you have to have some living skills, without a skill, you will have problems making a living。

姑奶奶是大伯的偶像, 她的话对大伯影响很大, 大伯的举止行动, 都有姑奶奶的影子。Grand-auntie was Uncle's idol, She had a great influence on him. In Uncle's behavior, you can see Grand-auntie's image。

大伯的性格也像姑奶奶, 待人和气, 做事细致。Uncle's characteristics are quite similar to grand-auntie, kind to people, caring。

水都是我拎的, 他做, 水都是我拎好, 做豆腐很费水。I would carry the water, he made it, I prepared the water. You use lots of water to make Tofu。

爹爹的脾气比较爽快, 敢于挑重担。Daddy is very direct, dares to take challenges。

爹爹和大伯在一起, 性格互补, 干活也不累。Daddy and Uncle, have complimentary characteristics, very tired of work。

我们一家生活得有点艰难, 但我们也是苦中有乐。We have hard life, but we enjoy every bit of it。

晚上, 我从苏州放学回家, 我终于吃到了自家做的豆腐。In the evening, I came home from Suzhou, I finally eat the home-made Tofu。

蛮好吃, 咸一点, 比食堂里的总归好吃。这句话倒是真的, 蛮好吃的。是蛮好吃的呀。Tastes good, a bit salty, much better than the school canteen, This is true, tastes good, really tastes good。

夏天到了, 爹爹冒着高温, 到芦苇荡里挖芦根, 为我治病。芦根, 这是一味能降温的草药。When summer came. Daddy would, in the high temperature, go to get bulrush, for my sickness. The roots, are a kind of herbal medicine to cool the body temperature。

我发烧了, 爹爹和大伯为我熬了芦根汤。I had fever, Daddy and Uncle made the soup out of bulrush roots。

这个芦根挖出来, 像吃甘蔗一样吃, 又能解渴又能充饥, 就像芦荡火种里, 不是也挖芦根吃的吗, 就是这种芦根呀, 对吧? 粗, 真的像甘蔗一样粗。They dug the bulrush roots , eat like sugar cane, can take as drink and food, Just like in the kindling of bulrush , didn't they eat the bulrush roots? just like this kind of roots, isn't it? thick, as thick as sugar cane。

你还热吧? 要不要温度再量量看。不好吃。药嘛总归不好吃的。You still have fever, would like to take the temperature. taste awful. medicine never taste good。

我的病很快好了, 大伯教我弹琵琶。I recovered, Uncle taught me to play the lute。

爹爹中暑了, 大伯为爹爹刮痧, 这是一种简单的民间疗法, 刮痧能够活血, 发散内热。Daddy had heat stroke, Uncle helped strigil him, this is kind of traditional therapy , strigil can activate the blood moving , to relieve the fever。

爹爹有些郁闷, 就是老房子卖掉了。Daddy felt a little depressed, because the old house was sold。

这房子时间长了, 主要就是任家搬到同里来, 就是这点老房子, 最早任家发迹搬到同里来, 最早的房子就是这点房子, 心疼就心疼在这里, 并不是为了房子, 房子本身是破的, 没什么可惜, 主要就是回顾, 多少年数了。

This house is very old, mostly because Ren's family moved to Tongli, only this old house, Ren's family moved here when they got older. this is what they had, that is why he felt distressed, not for the house, the house is shabby, nothing to regret, only for the memories, so many years。

没有守住任家最后一间老房子, 爹爹和大伯心里很痛苦, 他们一直想什么时候, 能把老房子再赎回来。Couldn't keep the old house , Daddy and Uncle felt heart-broken, They have been thinking about, when they can purchase back the old house。

小镇的旅游业发展很快, 爹爹有摇船的特长, 他很想承包几条船, 靠水吃水做做游船的生意, 可是, 他没有承包成功。The tourist business developed very fast, Daddy has the skill of rowing the boat, He expects to contract a

**couple of boats, making a living by the water, does some tourist business. but, He failed.**

夏日里，我在船娘的指导下，学会了摇船，我的胆子好像比大伯大。 **In summer, I learned, to row the boat. I am braver than Uncle.**

每个人都会摇船的，买东西摇船出去，所以都会摇船的。 **Everyone can row the boats, go shopping by boat, so everyone can row the boats.**

童谣里说，摇啊摇，摇到外婆桥可是我摇不到外婆桥，也不想找妈妈。 **In the nursery rhyme, row, row, row to the grand-mother's bridge. But , I can not row to grandmother's bridge, I don't want to look for mother .**

大伯的琵琶，讲的是古代女子的爱情故事。我不明白，大伯为什么老是沉浸在这样的故事里。 **Uncle's lute, expresses the love stories of ancient history. I can not understand, why is Uncle so involved in the stories .**

我们的小镇是丝绸之乡，镇上曾经有好几家缫丝厂，工人从滚烫的水中，把蚕丝抽出来，织成丝绸我觉得特别好玩。 **Our town is famous for silk, There are several silk factories, From the hot water, the workers draw out the silk threat , twine them into silk, I find it very interesting.**

那时的乡镇企业兴旺发达，爹爹和大伯都在乡镇企业里工作，收入不错，我家的日子就特别好过。 **At that time the township enterprises were developing fast, Daddy and Uncle both worked there, had good income, we lived good life.**

可是时过境迁，现在不少的乡镇企业经营不好，缫丝厂也倒闭了。 **But times changed, now many enterprises do not do good, some silk factories go bankrupt.**

真丝卖不出价格，最高的时候卖到 25 万一吨，现在我们库存处理 11 万 611 万 6 还要不要呢，现在国内市场上库存多得不得了。 **Silk can not sell for a good price, During the good times, silk was sold for 250,000 Yuan per ton, Now we have the stock for 116,000 Yuan per ton , want to buy at 116,000 Yuan! There are too much stocks in the market.**

爹爹想在镇上恢复工作的希望落空了。 **Daddy's hope to get back to work turned to nothing.**

一家缫丝厂，只有一张留守的床。 **In the silk factory, there is only a bed left.**

这条路是三岔路，缫丝厂缩在里边，这里整个一条路准备一直造过去，全部都拆掉，里面一直造房子，是不是造商品房，外面是商品房，里面准备造宾馆。 **This road has three forks roads, the silk factory is at the end, they planned to rebuild the whole road, tear up everything, whether they will build commercial houses, they will build commercial houses outside, build hotels inside.**

小镇里大兴土木，工厂关了，准备发展房地产。 **The real estate develops fast, the factories are shut down, only develop real estate.**

爹爹为家里的生计着想，决定外出打工，离开同里小镇。 **daddy is planning how to make a living, He decides to work out of town, leave Tongli.**

爹爹在外地一家纺织厂里找到了工作他是这家厂里年龄最大的打工者。 **Daddy found a job in a textile factory outside, He is the oldest in the factory.**

爹爹打工，我去读书，家里只留下大伯。大伯有些惆怅。 **Daddy went out to work, I went out to study, Uncle is left home, he is bit melancholy.**

寂寞的大伯决定去探望爹爹，爹爹住在厂里的宿舍里。 **Lonely Uncle decided to visit Daddy. Daddy stayed in the dormitory.**

大伯会腌一种咸菜，很好吃。 **Uncle can make pickles, taste very good.**

菜在太阳里晒晒瘪，十斤菜一斤盐，要揉的，揉到它卤出来，浸在瓶里。 **Dry vegetables under the sun, put 500g salt each 5000g vegetables, they need be kneaded,so that the sauce could get out, soak the vegetables in the bottle.**

爹爹干重活，腰扭伤了。 **Daddy did some hard work, he hurt his waist.**

有个阶段站也站不起来，当心点 **Couldn't stand up for a period of time. Be careful.**

秋天到了，我学会做幸运星。据说做了 999 颗幸运星，就可以许一个心愿。 **Autumn arrived , Learned to make lucky stars, It is said if you make up to 999 stars , you can make a wish.**



音乐课上，老师用风琴弹了一首歌，让我们荡起双桨，很好听的，你会唱吗？让我们荡起双桨，小船儿推开波浪，海面倒映着美丽的白塔，四周环绕着绿树红墙。IN music class, teacher played organ, a song called Let us Row the Boat, sounded very beautiful, can you sing, Let us row the boat, the boat pushes the waves, beautiful white pagoda reflected in the sea, which is surrounded by the green trees and red walls.

我们在小学里，最喜欢唱这首歌《让我们荡起双桨》。荡起双桨，就有理想。When we were in Primary school, I liked this song. Row the boat, you will move towards your ideal.

童年的歌经常回响在我的耳畔，我就是在水乡，在爹爹伯伯的关心下长大的。The children song, often echoed in my ears. I grew up in the river village, under the care of Daddy and Uncle.

过年了，镇上的有钱人家举行婚礼，场面很大。When new year come, some rich people got married, very large spectacle.

称心如意，百年好合 Satisfied with each other, Love each other for a hundred years.

婚礼上的喜庆乐队，大伯缺席了，因为他没有结过婚，人家有点嫌弃他。In the music band for the wedding, Uncle was absent, Because he never got married, People tried to avoid him.

元宵节晚上，我们一家人包汤圆，邻居也来帮忙。For the festival of lanterns, we made rice dumplings, our neighbors came to help.

我是老伯伯呀，他是爹爹，家长会阿施去开的呀，阿施因为是她的爸爸呀 because Arshi is his Daddy. 他们公证的，有公证书的，我么是老伯伯呀。I am uncle, he is Daddy. Arshi always goes for the parents' meeting, They have notification on this, I am only Uncle.

大伯委屈的事不少，可他都忍了。Uncle has lots of grievances, but he can stand them.

甜的咸的？按以前说起来，新年里的圆子，年初一的圆子是甜的，正月里都不用干活的，都是玩的，你么放假，大家都在家里玩。正月半的圆子叫苦圆子，因为吃就要上班干活了，你现在么要去读书了，认真点，晓得了，拿点好的成绩回来。 Sweet or salt? According to the tradition, the rice dumplings in the new year, they are sweet on the first day, because you don't have to work in the new year, all play, you have holidays, Everybody plays at home. They are bitter on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the new year, because after that you have to work, You should study hard. diligently, understand, get all A's.

一年又一年，大伯依旧弹着他心爱的琵琶，倾述着他心中的秘密。Year after year, Uncle played his lute, expressing his secrets.

有苦有甜，才是生活。我长大以后，也会渐渐懂事的。There is sweetness and bitterness, This is life. When I grow up, I will understand more.