

My mother died when I was ten.

My dad he had a lot of business sense.

He was very handy, he made clothes and stuff.

But the times didn't allow him to do that.

That's why he was hiding everywhere.

Retrospection

I got good grades in school,

and I never brought home my homework at night.

because I didn't have time to bring it home. I had
to do my own crafts.

making money by doing crafts.

I made some rope bags,

sold them to people in the countryside.

Farmers could use them to hold cotton.

That's not speculation.

That's because I took the grass myself from the
side of the road.

We were at the end of the Cultural Revolution.

We were all beholden to the government,

so you couldn't just do whatever you wanted.

I had arranged to work in a factory for a year.

I was making cardboard boxes there.

I didn't have any different ideas,
and even if I did, I wouldn't be able to realise
them.

Everything was at the mercy of the state and the
government.

When your grandfather was very young, he said he
liked me.

We were in the same class.

We weren't in a relationship either
because my sister didn't get married.

If she wasn't married, I couldn't get married.

I couldn't get married until she did.

Otherwise, it was bad for her reputation.

We had a child after a year of marriage.

At that time, there were no nurseries in the
factory.

In the morning when going to work, I had to take my
son with me.

He had grown chubby, and I used to carry him on my
back to the workplace every day.

I was only 45kg.

People used to call me 'Ribby'.

I could even fall down when the wind blew.

'Worker Mother'

Your dad was naughty .never taking homework seriously.

But I was solely focused on grooming him.

I just wanted him to have a future.

Yet, all he did was play all day long.

He was so skilled at gaming

While others would spend a penny on game tokens
and quickly run out,

he could play from morning till noon.

The arcade owner would spot him before he even sat
down

and come to my workplace to tell me,

'Your son is at it again, playing games.'

So, I would go fetch him back home.

I was an accountant then.

As long as you were proficient in your job and
responsible,

you could keep going

I've been an accountant for decades.

Then came the reform and opening up.

The town sent me to the standard component factory

to be the factory manager.

I was the factory manager for a year or so.

I didn't want to be the factory manager anymore,

So they transferred me to the street office as deputy director.

No, they had to be assigned. It was all up to the party committee.

You couldn't just do whatever you wanted.

As a factory manager, you always have to socialise.

You have to drink with customers when they come over.

I wasn't used to that.

I was in my 40s, 45 or so.

We had a custom there.

At that time,

If you raised a boy, you had to build a house.

If you didn't have a house, where would the girl live when she got married?

His mother was a snob and wouldn't give us a house.

We had to fend for ourselves.

We were a family of three.

We were just more frugal.

When my son was three years old.

We built a big house.

I'm unwilling to answer that question.

I'm unwilling to answer that question.

Their family went too far.

Their family was too brutal.

I couldn't handle being around them.

I don't want to talk about it. It cause me pain to speak of it.

I refuse to discuss the matter.

Each of them in their family was so domineering, unbelievably ruthless.

They would hurl insults at me.

They would grab and throw away our belongings.

They even flipped over the dining table.

Why were they like this?

Their family had a tough life, and they were all hardworking.

Your grandfather's household registration was rural.

At that time, it was impossible for me to marry into his family.

With three adult educated youths in the family, they could obtain an urban household registration

by drawing lots to go to the city.

Between his son and daughter,

your grandfather's father gave the household
registration to his son, your grandfather.

Just because of this incident,
it was irreparable.

It was as if they had planted the seeds of hatred
all in me.

No matter how nicely you treated her with gifts,
my mother-in-law...
treated me like an enemy.

When my son was 4 years old and hungry after
kindergarten,

when he came back,

he asked her for a pastry to eat.

She said she didn't know my son, 'I don't know
you.'

When my son came back in the afternoon,
he hadn't eaten yet.

I asked him why he hadn't eaten.

Why didn't she prepare food for the baby?

I told her I had just bought 5 kilograms of meat
for you all last time,

which meant the baby could have a meal at your place when I was away on a business trip.

She said, 'I haven't eaten yet. What is he going to eat?'

My husband,

he never brought back anything his unit distributed.

When we went to his friends' houses to hang out, whatever they had, they would say,

'You also have these at home.'

I just knew

he never brought anything back home for our son to eat,

he gave it all to them.his family.

He was, in a way, filial,

he was

A twisted kind of filial.

Never Look Back

When I was 49 years old, I retired.

My daughter-in-law said,

Um, the child shouldn't be taken care of by others.

I sacrificed for this family because of that.

How could I not be happy?

I have a son, a granddaughter, and a grandson.

I am so happy, so joyful.

I willingly do what I do.

I do it voluntarily and willingly.

I also wish not to worry. I wish nobody would come
looking for me.

Ah, I'm happy.

If you are all well, I'm happy.

It's all for your future,

because I

love my son too much,

I've spoiled him too much,

I only think of my children,

helping to take care of the grandchildren,

because I quite like children,

I quite like children.

Being alone at home for such a long time is
oppressive,

and then I got heart disease,

couldn't breathe properly,

lips turned purple,

couldn't hold things anymore,

couldn't even lift a few pounds of weight.

I used all my money on you all,

all my strength on you all.

I haven't bought clothes for years now.

But when I was young, I bought a lot of clothes.

I used to enjoy dressing up.

I had so many clothes,

so many of them.

They say there's no place like home.

Well, living here is quite nice too.

As long as I keep the house tidy and neat,

people who visit say it's pretty clean.

The food is quite good too.

I can cook for myself, I can cook all sorts of dishes.

I don't want to eat out; the food in restaurants isn't healthy.

They put too much MSG in it.

So, I prefer to cook my own food. The dishes I cook are quite good.

Look at the dish I made today,

isn't the combination of yams, celery, and red peppers just perfect?

The colors, the fragrance, and the taste, all in harmony.

I've chosen this kind of life, and I'm happy.

As long as I can do what I want to do, I'm willing.

Helping them improve their family life,
making the family more harmonious.

As long as I have the strength, as long as I don't get sick,

I'm willing to do it.

I have no regrets.

I hope

you can study hard,

pursue your education, like getting a master's degree.

And my wish is for you to find someone to marry when you're around twenty-five or twenty-six,

have a child, and then let me take care of them.

That's my greatest happiness.

That's the thing that makes me the happiest.