

Love and Protection: Wang Zhaocheng's Choice and Pursuit

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Abstract: Wang Zhaocheng was the fifth dean of the National Normal College (now Hunan Normal University in Changsha, Hunan Province, China) during the Republic of China, following Liao Shicheng, Pi Mingju, Xie Fuya and Chen Dongyuan. Unfortunately, he died on his way back from collecting college funds from the provincial government on August 10, 1949. The Kuomintang troops who had agreed to escort him shot him and his companions to death by pretending to be gangsters. Wang Zhaocheng was born into a businessman family. He went to Japan twice to further his education abroad in his youth. He later made his name in history for his patriotism and college-protecting actions, and was posthumously recognized as a martyr. It is Wang Zhaocheng's personal choice to sacrifice his life for the country and to die for the college, and it is also the embodiment and pursuit of his unity of knowledge and action.

Keywords: Patriotism, Protection, Wang Zhaocheng.

1. Wang Zhaocheng's life

Wang Zhaocheng, courtesy name Ziming, was born in Tianchang County, Anhui Province. In 1896, Wang Zhaocheng was born into a family of businessmen. Wang Zhaocheng's grandfather, Wang Yifu, was a scholar and later engaged in business. He followed the "Tianliu Shang" to Shanghai and opened a restaurant. He became famous in Shanghai for his many Anhui Tianchang home-cooked dishes such as cherry meat and boiled dried shreds. The restaurant was highly praised by diners. Wang Zhaocheng's father, Wang Zuozhou, once served as the magistrate of Shouzhou Prefecture. He was a new-style official who was not limited by tradition, knew the past and present, and knew the world. Wang Zhaocheng had such an education and family background. Compared with the men of the same age in Tianchang, Anhui, and even his peers in China at that time, he was extremely lucky and happy. However, he did not choose to be a playboy and did not want to make progress. Instead, he listened and listened since childhood. Following the teachings of his father Wang Zuozhou, he studied diligently to further his ambitions.

When Wang Zhaocheng got older, Anhui Tianchang's education level and outdated ideas had become shackles on his growth path, which could not satisfy his strong desire for knowledge and curiosity about the outside world. Therefore, Wang Zhaocheng immediately left his hometown to study in Shanghai, a modern city whose education and culture were among the first in China at that time. To this day, Wang Zhaocheng's relevant archives in Shanghai during his high school years can still be read from the Nanyang High School Yearbook. Because his academic performance in middle school was among the best, Wang Zhaocheng successfully obtained a valuable place for studying in Japan with public funding from the Republic of China government and enrolled in Nagoya No. 8 High School (now Nagoya University, Japan). As soon as he entered the school, he met Wang Xitian, an international student who was also from China. During the acquaintance, he hit it off and cherished each other. The two gradually developed into like-minded friends. Later, Wang Zhaocheng organized and launched the "Freemasonry" in

Nagoya. Because of his courage to expose Japan's massacre of Chinese workers in Japan during the "Japanese Massacre", he was injured by Japanese youths. With the cover and help of his friends, he was able to return to China. However, his friend Wang Xitian was assassinated and sacrificed his life. After Wang Zhaocheng returned to China, he went to his grandfather Wang Yifu. Later, because he couldn't bear to see China still in a backward situation controlled by Western countries and even Japan, Wang Zhaocheng had no choice but to leave Shanghai temporarily and go to Japan alone.

Wang Zhaocheng went to Japan again and enrolled in Tokyo Imperial University (now the University of Tokyo, Japan) to learn agrochemical knowledge and serve the country through industry. While at Tokyo Imperial University, Wang Zhaocheng used the advanced Western modern science and technology he learned to conduct research and analysis on preserved eggs, a traditional Chinese food. The preserved eggs produced in Tianchang, Wang Zhaocheng's hometown in Anhui Province, have a long history and cultural heritage. During the Qing Dynasty, Tianchang people learned to combine lime, salt, grass ash, tea and other auxiliary materials to make preserved eggs. Because the egg body of the preserved egg is transparent and its surface shows lines that resemble pine flowers, it is named "Pine Flower Preserved Egg". With his extensive knowledge and unique ideas, Wang Zhaocheng published an academic article titled "Research on Preserved Eggs" and was awarded a doctorate on this basis. This article attracted a lot of attention to Wang Zhaocheng in Japanese academic circles, and Wang Zhaocheng earned the title of "Doctor Preserved Egg". Since then, Anhui Tianchang's preserved eggs have begun to enjoy a certain reputation at home and abroad under the promotion of Wang Zhaocheng.

After returning to China after studying in Japan, Wang Zhaocheng taught at many well-known universities in China. The teaching and application of his professional knowledge have greatly contributed to the cultivation of talents in universities and the production practice of enterprises. Later, at the invitation of Xie Fuya, the third dean of the National Normal University, he went from Zhejiang University to teach in Nanyue, Hunan. In 1949, the rapidly changing civil

war situation spread to the education sector. Many universities across China launched anti-relocation movements and struggles to protect schools. In August, shortly after Wang Zhaocheng became the acting dean of the National Normal University, he was brutally murdered by the Kuomintang while escorting the college fees back.

Wang Zhaocheng's teacher in Japan once recalled that his two best students, "Wang Zhaocheng and Tang Duwei, disappeared into obscurity after returning to China." Wang Zhaocheng was not unknown, but he worried too much about things and did not work in the field of biology. He could have made a huge breakthrough in science but chose to devote his blood to more important fields at the time.

2. Patriotism: Investigating the “Japanese Massacre”

2.1. Freemasonry

In September 1923, violent and inhumane anti-Chinese incidents occurred in many places in Japan. On September 1, a 7.9-magnitude earthquake, rare in history, occurred in the Kanto region, and the security of the entire society fell into extreme chaos. The discrimination against Chinese workers before the earthquake and the Japanese panic after the earthquake eventually led to the situation where Japanese soldiers and civilians massacred Chinese people in broad daylight. A total of more than 700 Chinese workers in Japan were unfortunately killed. Such an appalling thing happened. After many negotiations and irrefutable evidence, the Japanese government finally agreed to let the Chinese workers who survived the disaster return to China. In the end, about 3,000 Chinese workers were rescued and arrived safely in China, where they were reunited with their families.

At that time, Wang Zhaocheng and his friend Wang Xitian, who were studying at the Eighth High School in Nagoya, Japan, were patriotic students. They were not afraid of hardships and dangers and were the first to investigate the death of Chinese workers in Japan, exposing and protesting the atrocities of Japanese soldiers and civilians massacring Chinese workers. Wang Zhaocheng and Wang Xiren had previously founded the "Masonic Society" and had long been the subject of special "care" by the Japanese police. Therefore, some Japanese soldiers and police took advantage of Wang Xitian's opportunity to appease the surviving Chinese workers and secretly killed him. Wang Zhaocheng was not spared either. After being injured by a Japanese youth, he was able to escape the intimidation of the Japanese military and police and escape from Japan after being protected by various means. After returning to China, Wang Zhaocheng did not choose to remain silent and escape reality. Instead, he ate and lived with the returned Chinese workers, collected materials, and wrote all his patriotism and anger at losing his friends into an investigation report.

After the outbreak of World War I, Japan took advantage of the opportunity that Western countries had no time to take care of the East and stepped up the development of its own industry. Therefore, the demand for labor increased sharply. Because of this, farmers from Guangdong, Fujian, Zhejiang and Shandong in China went to Japan to make a living for themselves. A large number of Chinese workers were voluntarily transported to Japan, and they were generally distributed in cities and regions such as Nagasaki, Osaka, Tokyo, Kobe, and Nagoya. Because first, they cannot use Japanese for daily conversation and communication, secondly,

they have no knowledge, culture or skills, and thirdly, they are Chinese. Chinese workers in Japan often do the heaviest, most tiring and dirtiest work, but can only receive the meager salary that is not enough to cover their basic expenses. They have been beaten and abused by the bosses and foremen of their factories more than once. They have also been bullied by Japanese police and even Japanese children, and have lived an almost inhuman life in a foreign country.

Wang Zhaocheng saw with his own eyes that these poor Chinese compatriots were being enslaved and mistreated in Japan. He was distraught and vowed to help them truly alleviate their economic difficulties and life pain. So in 1922, Wang Zhaocheng established a house in Nagoya called "Musei Hao" specifically to entertain and provide shelter for Chinese workers, helping them get out of their temporary predicament. Later, in order to expand the coverage of help for Chinese workers in Japan, he and Wang Xitian contacted other groups such as the Overseas Students Association in Japan, the Youth Association, and the Anglican Church, and established a new public welfare group in Tokyo, the "Republic of China Overseas Chinese Labor Day Labor Fellow Freemasons" (referred to as "The Freemasons").

As early as the establishment of "Freemasonry", it was stated that it was limited to an unofficial public welfare organization to protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese workers in Japan. It has set up a number of specialized departments such as treatment, education and condolences, with a complete range of categories. They are responsible for providing free physical examination and treatment to Chinese workers, running evening schools for cultural literacy and language tutoring for Chinese workers, and visiting Chinese workers during holidays, etc. The division of labor is clear and there is a "human touch". Whenever Chinese workers were discriminated against by the Japanese, Wang Zhaocheng, Wang Xitian and other leaders and old members of the "Freemasonry" would come forward to negotiate with the Japanese on their behalf. Therefore, in the eyes of some Japanese groups, "Freemasonry" gradually became the "backstage" for Chinese workers in Japan to carry out rights struggles and justice, and it was also a place where it was possible to unite and win over Chinese workers. Therefore, Wang Zhaocheng and Wang Xitian began to gradually feel the "attention" of the military and police.

2.2. "Japanese Massacre"

On September 1, 1923, the "Great Kanto Earthquake" occurred in Japan. The earthquake caused more than 100,000 people to lose their lives or go missing. As a result, various important sectors related to people's livelihood, such as water, electricity, transportation, and communications, were paralyzed. On September 2, the Japanese government issued martial law and announced that social order would be maintained by the military, police, and regiments. After the earthquake, some people said that the North Koreans would set fires, poison, and launch riots. Rumors like this were everywhere, and they were also mixed with many rumors that the Chinese would launch a riot. Before the earthquake, the Japanese did not regard the Chinese in Japan as equals and refused to enjoy equal status with the Chinese. After the earthquake, the contradiction between the two intensified with the fluctuation of people's hearts and the intensification of rumors. Japan The pent-up emotions of the military and civilians were incited and inspired, and they began to massacre Chinese people without reason. In just a few days,

more than 700 Chinese (mostly Chinese workers) had been brutally murdered by the Japanese, and more than 6,000 Koreans had also suffered.

In addition, a special case of killing a Chinese worker occurred in Kanagawa Prefecture, which attracted great attention from the Consulate General of the Republic of China in Yokohama. In September 1922, foreman Ruan Shunxuan brought more than ten Chinese workers to Doi Village, Kanagawa Prefecture to build a railway. On September 4, 1923, more than a hundred Japanese armed with weapons beat Chinese workers, resulting in the death of three Chinese workers. After the incident, Ruan Shunxuan reported the case to the Consulate General in Yokohama. The Consulate General immediately reported the matter to the Embassy of the Republic of China in Japan and wrote to the Kanagawa Prefectural Office requesting the protection of Chinese workers. On November 13, the Consulate General sent specialists to the scene to conduct an investigation. Thanks to the diligent negotiations of the Consulate General, the Odawara Police Station in Kanagawa Prefecture finally arrested eight Japanese criminals and prosecuted Unosuke Nakajima and others. This incident is one of the very few killings of Chinese workers that the Japanese government has generously and publicly acknowledged.

Although the number of Chinese workers killed in the "Japan Massacre" in Japan in 1923 was far less than the tens of thousands of overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia before the 19th century, it far exceeded the 1885 Shiquan Town Chinese Workers Massacre in the United States (28 people) and the 1911 Violent massacres of Chinese since the 19th century such as the Torreón, Mexico, anti-Chinese incident (303 people) and the 1916 Chihuahua, Mexico, anti-Chinese incident (more than 200 people). However, it is a pity that such a large-scale massacre of Chinese workers has not aroused sufficient research interest and detailed research ideas and discussions among scholars, whether in the history of overseas Chinese or in the history of world anti-Chinese.

From September 7 to September 12, 1923, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively took the lead, and together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of War, the Police Department, the Legation, etc., held six "Consultation Meetings on Rescue of Chinese People" in consecutive days, and implemented the investigation of Chinese people. The disaster situation, centralized accommodation of Chinese nationals, and emergency measures such as dispatching ships have made full preparations for the repatriation work. On September 12, the sixth consultative meeting formulated a specific repatriation plan and officially launched the repatriation work. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Army were responsible for first transferring the Chinese workers and Chinese businessmen in Tokyo, and the Chinese workers at the Narashino Military Camp to the Shibaura temporary shelter in Tokyo Bay, and then repatriated them to China from Shibaura. In the end, the Japanese government repatriated a total of 4,113 Chinese nationals, including 442 international students and their relatives and attendants, and 3,671 Chinese workers and businessmen.

2.3. Investigation and Response

After Wang Xitian heard that many Chinese workers in Japan were massacred in the "Japanese Massacre", as the president of the "Freemasonry", he could not stand by and watch. Regardless of the fear of life and death, Wang Xitian rushed to the field to conduct an investigation on the morning

of September 9. However, he was arrested by Japanese soldiers and secretly killed on September 12. The day after Wang Xitian disappeared, Wang Zhaocheng searched several times, but there was no news about Wang Xitian. In October 1923, under the "close attention" of the Japanese military and police, Wang Zhaocheng had to use a pseudonym to escape from Tokyo and boarded the "Yamashiro Maru" to smuggle back to China from the Port of Kobe. The refugee ship also carried back to China. The ship was full of Chinese workers who had narrowly escaped death and the injured and disabled. Wang Zhaocheng continued to ask the workers about the situation and conduct investigations, such as asking for personal materials from those who survived, and asking for descriptions from relatives and friends of the deceased.

Since October 15, 1923, various newspapers and periodicals in Shanghai have successively published "Ironproof Evidence of the Massacre of Chinese Workers by the Japanese". The content is based on the verification done by Wang Zhaocheng, and finally compiled a death list of the Chinese workers who died. This list includes 420 deaths. On February 25, 1924, in a letter sent by Foreign Minister Gu Weijun and Japanese Minister in Beijing Kenkichi Yoshizawa, the number of casualties increased to 639.

Based on Wang Zhaocheng's investigation report, the Wenzhou Association of Shanghai Compatriots submitted a copy of "Japanese Massacre of Overseas Chinese fortifications" to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Beijing Government on October 19, calling on the government to conduct diplomatic intervention in Japan. At the same time, the association requested cooperation in investigating the evidence of the deaths of Chinese workers in Japan as evidence for future negotiations with the Japanese side. It also sent a message to all sectors of society, including the provincial labor unions, requesting coordinated protests. Since then, provincial political circles and civil society groups have called the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, demanding punishment and compensation from Japan. In addition, 380 international students from the group of students who returned to Japan after the disaster also jointly called the Minister of Foreign Affairs on October 22, demanding serious representations to the Japanese government about the massacre of Chinese workers. Overseas Chinese organizations in Japan established the Tokyo Support Association for the Protests of Abuse and Massacre of Overseas Chinese in Japan, and sent a letter on November 17 imploring the Beijing government to quickly lodge a serious protest with Japan.

The completion process of Wang Zhaocheng's investigation report was not easy. After many twists and turns, it was finally released to the world, making the whole story of the "Japanese Massacre" known to the world, and arousing responses at home and abroad to denounce Japan's despicable behavior. Although the final result of the year-long discussion between China and Japan was still unresolved, Wang Zhaocheng's patriotism did not diminish even a little bit because of this. His investigative report was a result of dragging his illness and risking his life in front of his friends. After Wang Xitian was killed, he wrote it with a heavy heart and determination to die. Faced with the oppression of their compatriots in foreign lands, neither Wang Zhaocheng nor Wang Xitian chose to turn a blind eye. This was Wang Zhaocheng's choice and his pursuit, which is to safeguard China's interests and the interests of the Chinese people.

3. Protection: Dedicating himself to the College

After Wang Zhaocheng returned from studying in Japan, he taught at many well-known universities in China, such as Central University, Fudan University, Zhejiang University, etc. If not for the invitation of Xie Fuya, acting president of the National Normal University, Wang Zhaocheng might not have fallen into the struggle between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party and sacrificed his life for it. There are no assumptions in history. Wang Zhaocheng's choice was to travel thousands of miles and follow the invitation. He did not fear the dragon's pond and tiger's den because of the uncertain future.

At first, Qian Zhongshu followed his father Qian Jibo to teach at the National Normal University. Qian Zhongshu was the director of the English Department, and Qian Jibo was the director of the Chinese Department. The father and son taught at the same school, which became a legend. Half of Qian Zhongshu's "Talk about Art" was completed at the National Normal College. The prototype of the university "Sanlu University" where Fang Hongjian taught in Qian Zhongshu's novel "The Besieged City" was the National Normal College. In fact, the National Normal University is as complicated as the "Sanlv University" in Qian Zhongshu's novel "The Besieged City", and the entanglement of interests between the characters in the novel is only one ten thousandth of the real situation. In the novel, the disputes between teachers and principals are only about salary and seniority, but the real situation is that the teachers and students of the National Normal University are fighting over the differences between the party and the party's creeds, and which faction of the party should preside over the work of the National Normal University. The problem.

In August 1947, Liao Shicheng, dean of the National Normal University, resigned as dean due to illness. He was succeeded as dean by Mr. Pi Mingju, Xie Fuya (Kang Xinyuan did not take up the post), and Chen Dongyuan. Mr. Pi Mingju resigned to teach at Hunan University due to heavy academic affairs and complicated interpersonal relationships. The reason Kang Xinyuan did not take up the post was because factions within the National Normal University competed for the position of dean and refused him the position of dean. From April 1948 to May 1949, in just one year, the position of dean changed four times.

In 1949, the civil war between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party came to an end. The Kuomintang could not conceal its decline, and its ruling foundation was no longer stable, so it began to plan a retreat. Not only military retreats, but also economic, cultural, and educational retreats are all under consideration. In May 1949, the Nationalist Government, seeing that the Chinese Communist Party would soon enter Hunan, attempted to transfer the National Normal College from Nanyue to Guangzhou, Guangdong. In response to the National Government's forced relocation of the school, the underground organization of the Communist Party of China quickly launched an "anti-relocation" movement in the school. Dean Chen Dong left Hunan because his plan to move the National Normal College to the south failed. With the strong support of the underground organization of the Communist Party of China and the support of progressive teachers and students, Wang Zhaocheng became the fifth dean (acting) of the National Normal University.

In August 1949, Cheng Qian and Chen Mingren of Hunan

responded to the call of the Communist Party of China and officially announced the peaceful liberation of Changsha. As soon as this move came out, the Kuomintang was shocked, and the Hunan authorities ordered the National Normal College to move south to Taiwan immediately. Because Wang Zhaocheng was deeply aware of the corruption of the late Kuomintang rule, he was unwilling to mobilize troops and waste money and people. After frequent contacts with underground members of the Communist Party of China, Wang Zhaocheng became familiar with the specific policies of the Communist Party of China and determined to stay with the teachers and students of the National Normal University. Relying on the underground organizations of the Communist Party of China, young students at the National Normal University established a number of progressive societies to carry out revolutionary practices. In order to better carry out nursing school and maternity care work, the underground organization of the Communist Party of China established a response committee among teachers, students and the public, and elected Wang Zhaocheng as the director, responsible for the defense work of "anti-relocation" and "anti-sabotage". The contingency committee has always been led by the Communist Party of China, and all major departments are headed by Communist Party members.

When the Hunan Provincial Government saw that the National Normal University was unmoved, in order to force it to move south to Taiwan, it cut off the college's education funds in an attempt to forcibly evacuate the college's student movement organized by the Communist Party of China. The contingency committee controlled by the Communist Party of China immediately met and decided to send student representatives to Hengyang to argue with government officials, demanding continued funding to maintain the basic livelihood of teachers and students at the National Normal University. The Hunan Provincial Government claimed that the dean and financial personnel of the National Normal University must come forward to allocate funds. Its purpose was to capture the "thief" first and lure the dean Wang Zhaocheng out of the school. In order to maintain the basic life of teachers and students, Wang Zhaocheng used his status and connections to spare no effort in negotiating with the Hengyang Special Administrative Office to obtain emergency funds. In the end, I got a promise that the money would be distributed, but the condition was that the Normal University must send someone to pick it up. In order to ensure that he received the allocation, Wang Zhaocheng made up his mind to personally take people to Hengyang to collect funds.

On August 10, 1949, Wang Zhaocheng led a group of five people including Zhang Huanzhong, director of the cashier team of the National Normal University, Zhou Yue, assistant accountant, Kang Zili, a member of the sports team, and Wang Yunfang, the guard squad leader, to Hengyang to receive a total of 12,000 yuan in silver dollars from the Ministry of Education. . On their way back to school, the five people were suddenly blocked by a dozen men in plainclothes at Jiuguan Bridge, not far from Nanyue. When the blockers learned that the five people in front of them were recipients of funds from the National Normal University, they not only refused to give way, but also robbed the silver coins and shot Wang Zhaocheng, who had no power to tie a chicken, as well as Zhang Zhenzhong, Zhou Kai and others who were going with them. In order to protect the safety of others, Wang Zhaocheng shouted loudly: "I am the dean, kill me, don't kill others!" The Kuomintang troops pretending to be bandits

ignored Wang Zhaocheng's dissuasion and shot all five people.

The anti-relocation movement of the National Normal University and the struggle for nursing schools were just a microcosm of many movements in colleges and universities in China at that time. Naturally, there were more violent and dangerous struggles and results in colleges and universities. However, President Liao Shicheng's retirement, Mr. Pi Mingju's resignation, Kang Xinyuan's refusal to take office, Chen Dongyuan's departure, and the hints in Qian Zhongshu's novel "Fortress Besieged" all indicate that there are many factions within the National Normal University. There is an undercurrent. The essence of this struggle was between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party of China. Wang Zhaocheng was not a member of the Communist Party of China, and there was no dispute between parties or beliefs. However, he died in this struggle because he fought for the interests of teachers and students of the National Normal University. This was his choice and his pursuit of "the great responsibilities that God will entrust to this people". Wang Zhaocheng was unwilling to sacrifice others. He chose to sacrifice himself in exchange for the survival of teachers and students. Even though death was inevitable, he tried to persuade the Kuomintang troops to kill him alone.

4. Conclusion

Wang Zhaocheng has been involved in many fields such as agriculture, industry, business, and education throughout his life, ranging from exposing Japanese crimes to preparing ointments, developing compressed biscuits, making soy sauce, etc. These are all the subjects of his research. His life of more than fifty years was not long, but Wang Zhaocheng made many contributions to the development of the country and the school. Although he has a rich resume and a high position, Wang Zhaocheng does not seek personal gain from it. He studied in Japan twice so that he could succeed in his studies and return to China to develop Chinese industry. He studied preserved eggs to promote the culture of his hometown. He served as the acting dean of the National Normal University for Stop the college from moving south.

Judging from the two important matters of patriotism and school protection, Wang Zhaocheng is a simple and pure

person. He does things out of justice, regardless of gains and losses, and is as skillful as clumsy. However, he spends every penny and even sacrifices his life for the interests of the country and others. Whether he was risking his life to investigate the "Japanese Massacre", sacrificing his life to protect the funds of the National Normal University, or studying preserved eggs, going to Nanyue to teach, etc., these were all choices Wang Zhaocheng made under the background of that time. In December 1990, Hunan Normal University rewrote the inscriptions on the tombstones of five people from the National Normal University. Wang Zhaocheng was evaluated as "leaning towards revolution and enduring hardships." The first four words may not be what Wang Zhaocheng really wanted in his life, but the last four words are. Accurately summarizes the shape of his life. He did not choose himself. Wang Zhaocheng always chose the country, school and others.

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