【覃贵珍（湖南）口述：“文化大革命”（1966-1976）之18

讲述人：覃贵珍（女，1930年出生，湖南省石门县白云乡鸡鸣桥村村民）

采访人：贾之坦（男，1951年出生，湖南省石门县白云乡鸡鸣桥村村民，村民影像作者）

口述时间：2010年1月

采访地点：覃贵珍家

（口述整理：吴文光）



**Interview Notes**

I call her Mother Qin. Her husband, Wu Yuanyou, died at the age of 41 in 1970 during the movement of“One Fight Three Antis.” I found and interviewed her as a family member of the victim, who was treated as a “counterrevolutionary case” in this village during the Cultural Revolution.

I first talked with Wu Yangjie (the son of Mother Qin) and then turned to Mother Qin, “Mother Qin, you always look so healthy.” “Oh, why are you here, Accountant Tan? Come here and sit.” She grabbed a chair while saying these words. She always stays at home and so wants to talk with people.

I intended to talk with her and was expecting her to say so. So, I came to her very quickly.

Mother Qin said to me, “Accountant Tan, when people get old, their bodies won’t be good. There’s a problem in my waist and I was trapped in the bed for more than 20 days. I just got up today…”

“How old are you?”

“80 years old.”

“How old would your husband be, were he still alive?”

“He was one years older than me. He died when he was only 41 years old.”

“At his forties? Such a shame.”

Her nerve was stimulated by the word “shame” and began to talk with me.

**Oral Account**

**Born as a landlord and falsely framed as a counterrevolutionist**

I was married in the 36th year of the Republic of China (1947). My husband was a student and did nothing. The liberation came at the second half of the 38th year (1949). We were taken as “Tyrant Landlord” and driven to live at the old house of the Wu family.

During the Cultural Revolution, we were the “class enemy.” We never left the brigade in the daytime and the home in the evenings. We might be prosecuted at any time. At the beginning of 1970, he was accused of having joined a counterrevolutionary group with Yang Guanyuan and some others. Then they took him to the brigade. He was tied and forced to kneel on a wood. They released him after beating he up.

It was on February 22nd. There was little food at home. I went to borrow some from his brother (Wu Yuanda). However, he didn’t have much either. But he shared a small bowl with us. I added some water to cook porridge. My husband ate little so that the children won’t be hungry.

**Quarantine** **and Interrogated**

After the breakfast, Team Leader Li went to him and said that the brigade asked him to go. He went in a hurry for that, because we, these landlords, could not be late. Who knew that he would be back once going there.

After he left, he did not come back in the afternoon. Then I went to Wu Yangbo to borrow some rice. Then I added some sweet potatoes, with some dried food, carrots, and Chinese cabbage. I had to cook with oil. We had salt though. I also added some pepper powder as condiment. I made a full bowl of it and brought to the brigade.

When I was at the brigade, I was told that he was brought to the middle school. I went to the middle school in a hurry and was told that he was imprisoned in the building. I went to the upper level of the building. But the person on duty did not allow me in. I had to left the food with him. Later, I always had to send food in this way.

After he was imprisoned, the special group leader, Jia Xxiu, sent somebody to call me to his home. He asked me to report how my husband joined the counterrevolutionary group. He also lied to me that my husband himself had already admitted and he just wanted to see whether I was honest. The party’s policy is that “leniency to those who confess and severity to those who resist.”

 I wouldn’t admit for things that didn’t happen. Jia Xxiu was so angry that he pounded on the desk and chairs. He looked so ferocious and scary. I still didn’t listen to his order. I never sealed and made my cross as he asked.

During the quarantine and interrogation, Jia Zhennan, from the Sixteen Team, gave me a small piece of paper in secret. I opened it and it said, “Lao Qin, this really looks like a coming death.” Only these few words. I don’t know where he got the pen. Jia Zhennan was in the primary militia and was there to guard my husband. His wife’s family name was also Qin. His father-in-law was from Wangjiayan. So, he risked a lot to give me that piece of paper in secret. But what could I do with what he worried! I cried in secret.

I woke up early in the morning of April 6th. I cleaned up my home and went to send food to him. When I was on the road in front of the building, I met Team Leader Li, who was pushing people to work from family to family. When he saw me, he said, “Qin Guizhen, we will transplant the rice seedlings in the greenhouse. Nobody is allowed to be late after the breakfast. Asking for leave is also impossible. Otherwise, we will take out working credit.” I replied immediately, “I won’t be late. I will come once I left the food to my husband.”

**Sending Food and Meeting Him**

When I arrived at the door of the classroom, nobody was there to guard. I took the opportunity to meet him. We didn’t know what to say. Once approached, he smelt bad. He never changed clothes or socks. He never washed his face or hands during the two months.

He began to talk first, “My wife, I don’t know when I will be released. I really can’t continue to live like this.” I said, “How could I know? Even if they had any idea, they won’t tell me.”

He then wanted to say something. But I said first, “the team leader just commanded that everybody go to the greenhouse to help with the transplantation and the penalty will be doubled if late.”

He said, “the guard left for home to eat. If he sees this and reports to Jia Xxiu, it will be bad.” He said, “Take these socks to wash for me.” He then picked up a pair of socks from the bed, which was as messy as a kennel, passed them to me. I didn’t wait for him to say more and left in a hurry.

**Suicide**

I went to the school again in the afternoon and saw that Jia Xxiu (Deputy Secretary, Special Case Group Leader) and Gao Guorong (the brigade military battalion commander) standing at the backdoor. Gao Guorong stopped me and said, “Turn away. You don’t need to send food in the future.” “Why don’t they let me send food? They will take him to the prison in the county?” I was frozen.

Jia Xxiu shouted, “You, wife of a landlord! I told you to go home and just go. Don’t you hear me!”

After I was back at home, his brother came to me and said, “Jia Guomiao came and told us that my brother hanged himself in the school, because he was afraid for the penalty.” I fell in a faint.

In the evening, several “landlords” and “bad elements” brought my husband to my home with a ladder. They took him directly to the small hill behind my home to bury him.