

第貳章：民富成長之痛

民國三十六年父親帶著全家從福建搬到臺灣，三十七年夏我進了民富國民小學。民富國小離家很遠，我還得光著腳走去學校。當時很少有同學穿鞋子，只有有錢人家小孩才有鞋穿，而我們的腳就是天然的皮鞋，也就是我們的人皮，夏天時，甚至會踩到熱柏油路上，自然而然的，我們的腳幾乎變成刀槍不入了。

小學的第一年過得很順利，我的成績單非常亮眼。第二年交了幾個愛玩的朋友，常常去城隍廟玩橡皮圈和玻璃彈珠。城隍廟位於新竹市中心，有很多小地方賣很多好吃的東西。我當時迷上了一個賣肉羹的女孩，大約二十歲，這是我的初戀。可惜當時口袋空空，要不然我會天天去捧場。我還依稀記得她有多漂亮，我想生命中的每個第一次，總會永遠烙印在腦海裏。

生長在那個普遍貧窮的年代，沒什麼人會注意到我們這些問題少年。我常常在城隍廟鬼混，翹了很多課，成績單上顯示我每科都不及格，出席率低於百分之十。成績單須由家長蓋章後，交回給老師，我就偷父親的印章自己蓋。因為是義務教育，不管你讀得再爛，六年到了都會畢業。我第二、第三年都在李舉賢老師班上，他開始懷疑：是什麼樣的家長會在充滿紅字的成績單上蓋章超過一年？我們叫這種成績單是「滿江紅」，「滿江紅」是一首著名的歌。李老師於是登門拜訪，父親知道後，便把我打得屁股開花。

從四年級開始，我就被放在升學班，跟一群認真向上的孩子在一起，我的學業開始有起色。民富畢業時，我在班上是第二名。進了省立新竹中學初中部後，有一次我回去拜訪李老師，他搖著頭說他不敢相信我會進新竹最好的中

Chapter Two: Min-Fu Growing Pains

My dad moved the whole family from Fujian to Taiwan in 1947. In 1948, I started my school life in Min-Fu Primary School. It was quite far from my home, and I had to walk to school with my bare feet. There were very few classmates who wore shoes. They were from the wealthy families. We had a pair of natural leather shoe, i.e. our human skin shoes, the feet. We could even step on a hot asphalt road in the summer. Nature just took its own course and made our feet almost indestructible.

The first year went by very smoothly; I had a very impressive term report. In the second year, I had a few friends who did not like to study, so we went to the Cheng-Huang Temple (城煌廟) to play with rubber bands and marbles. This temple was at the business center of Hsinchu. It had a lot small places that sold a lot of good food. There was a girl who sold rice noodles with meat sauce. She was about twenty years old; I had a crush on her. It was my first puppy love. I did not have money, or else I would have eaten at her place all the time. I could still remember now how nice-looking she was. I guess that the first of every experience in your life would be cast in your memory for the rest of your life.

It was an era of poverty for most people; no one paid any attention to us, the delinquent boys. I missed a lot of classes by fooling around in the temple. My report card showed that I flunked every single course and missed over 90% of classes. The report card needed a parent's seal before we brought it back to teacher Lee (李舉賢老師). I stole my dad's seal to stamp my report card. It was a mandatory education system; it guaranteed you would graduate in six years no matter how badly you were doing. The second and third years were in teacher Lee's class. He started to wonder what kind of parent of mine would stamp my report cards with all red marks on my card for over one year. We called it Man Jiang Hong (滿江紅), red color all over a river or all red marks on a report card, a famous song title. Lee finally went to visit my dad. After his visit, my dad spanked the hell out of me.

Starting the 4th grade, I was in the class for students who wanted to pursue high school education. I was in a class of all motivated kids. My schoolwork began to shape up. I was in the second place in my class when I graduated from Min-Fu. When I was in Chu Chung, I went to see Lee. He shook his head and told me that he

學，教我小五的王人傑老師剛好經過，也加入一起談談過去的美好時光。他跟李老師說我是近乎完美的學生，李老師還是不停的搖頭，顯然他對我後三年在民富的表現是難以置信的。

我在民富時，花了很多時間在一間腳踏車店，那間店就在我家隔壁的隔壁，我在那裏結識了不少黑道朋友。但有了早年在民富的經驗，我不敢再當壞孩子了，看來我父親確實把我調教得很好。我學會很多黑道的規矩及許多閩南語的髒話，對人性更加敏銳了；每天花幾個鐘頭在車店裏，也學會了修腳踏車。車店老闆很喜歡在深夜打野兔，我就跟著他到客雅山找野兔。客雅山離我家不遠，山上有很多墳墓，年久失修，無人看管，我沒碰見過鬼，一心只想著哪裏有野兔。

民國四十三年，我從民富畢業（見第四十七頁的圖一和圖二），受頒新竹市長獎的字典，因為我的平均分數全班第二高。我還是不知道為什麼我當中兩年全科不及格，成績單滿江紅，還能第二名畢業，那真是個有趣的年歲。

would never believe that I could be in the top high school in the area. My fifth grade teacher Wang (王人傑老師) just dropped in and joined us to talk about the good old days. He told Lee that I was almost a perfect student. Lee still shook his head and was skeptical about my success in the last three years in Min-Fu.

I spent a lot of time during my Min-Fu time at a bike shop which was two doors from my home. I met quite a few friends in the mafia. With my experience in the early years of Min-Fu, I would not dare to be a bad kid again. My dad really got me to shape up very well. I learned a lot about the underworld practices. I also learned a lot of bad words in Fujianese (閩南話). It broadened my sensitivity to human nature. I spent several hours in the bike shop every day. I learned to fix bikes. The bike shop owner loved to hunt wild rabbits in the late night. I joined him to go to Keh-Ya Mountain (客雅山), which was not too far from my home, to search for wild rabbits. This mountain had a lot of graveyards. No one took care of these yards. I had never seen a ghost. We had one-track minds, i.e. where was the wild rabbit?

I graduated from Min-Fu in 1954 (See Pictures 1 and 2 on Page 47). I was the recipient of Hsinchu Mayor Award, a dictionary for having the second-best grade average. I still don't know how I could be the No. 2 in my graduating class with two years of flunking grades, the Man Jiang Hong. Those were my fun years.