

A close classmate in Nankai was YU Haogang 于豪刚. But I lost touch of him after the war. I did not know where he went. He was also close to YANG Rujiong. He had a sister in Nankai, three years senior. She was pretty and elegant. We all admired her beauty even though she was a big sister.

Talking about YU with XIMEN one day in 1980's, he mentioned that YU's sister was actually a teacher at Beida. She was a biologist. I managed to get YU's address from her, and learned that he was working in the petroleum industry in Tanggu.

In the summer of 1985, I was invited by Nankai Institute of Mathematics to give lectures on fluid mechanics to selected graduate students from Chinese universities. I got in touch with YU, and he came to Tianjin one day. He wore glasses, and although he was over fifty, he had no trace of white hair. We had lunch together, went to visit the Tianjin Nankai Middle School, and talked about the past a lot.

He had married his wife in 1957, one month before he became a rightist. They both had graduated from Tsinghua, he from mechanical engineering in 1953, and she from geology in 1952. He was working in Department of Petroleum after graduation. Then he was sent to a labor camp in Northeast after being a rightist. Later since his wife was transferred to Nanchong in Sichuan, he was also transferred to a labor camp in Sichuan. Actually he was living very close to where YANG Rujiong was. But they did not know and could not know. During the Cultural Revolution, because he said something about Jiang Qing, he was punished severely. So severe that he had even attempted suicide. They had a daughter who was 20 years old and studying in Beijing's College of Finance and Economics. Although he and his wife had married for almost 30 years, they were not together very long.

He said that his ordeal was not that bad. His salary was reduced by only 20 yuans from the original 80 yuans after being a rightist. He currently earned 120 yuans a month, and they lived in a dormitory with three rooms.

He asked me whether I knew his brother YU Haozhang 于豪章. I had indeed heard about YU Haozhang who was once the commander-in chief of the Nationalist Army in Taiwan, but was disabled because of helicopter crash, and thus ending the brilliant career. I did not know they were brothers. He regretted very much that he did not follow his brother to Taiwan in 1949.

He also said that another Nankai classmate TANG Xianke 唐贤可 was living in Tianjin. We tried to call on him, but were told he had gone to the US. TANG turned out to be also a rightist. His sister was in the same class with YU's sister in Nankai. She later married General QIN Jiwei 秦基伟. Apparently his connection with a prominent general could not prevent TANG's classification as a rightist.

YU retired in 1990's, and moved to Beijing to live with his daughter. One year, I was visiting Beijing and stayed in the Friendship Hotel. He came to visit me without prior notice. I was not in, and we missed meeting again. Not long afterwards, I heard that he had passed away.

A lot of my classmates had been rightists. Many of them could put the past away and adopted a rather positive attitude with regard to present and towards future. Or in some cases, they would relieve the past bitterness in angry denunciations. YU had been just sad, subdued, and remorseful. I found myself helpless facing him and thinking of him.

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南开跟我关系密切的一个同学是于豪刚，但战后就失去联系，不知道他去了哪里。他和杨汝綱关系也很好。他有个姐姐在南开，比我们高三个年级。漂亮典雅，虽然是个大姐姐，令我们都爱慕。

80 年代我和西门说起于豪刚，他说于豪刚的姐姐在北大教书，是个生物老师。我设法从她那里要到了于豪刚的地址，并得知他在塘沽的石油企业工作。

1985 年夏天，我应邀到南开数学所讲学，对象是从中国大学遴选研究生。我联系上了于豪刚。他有一天到天津来看我，戴着眼镜，尽管年过半百，却完全没有白头发。我们一起吃了午饭，去参访天津南开中学，谈论了不少过去的事情。

他 1957 年结婚，婚后一个月成了右派。他和太太都是清华毕业的，他 1953 年机械工程系毕业，他太太 1952 年地质系毕业。1953 年毕业后他是在石油部工作，划了右派就被送到东北的一个劳改营。后来因为他太太被转到四川南充，他也转到四川的一个劳改营。实际上，他和杨汝綱住的很近，但他们不知道也不可能知道。文化大革命期间，因为他说了关于江青的什么话，受到了严惩，他甚至曾试图自杀。他们有个女儿，已 20 岁，在北京财经学院读书。尽管他和太太结婚差不多 30 年，但在一起的时间并不多。

他说遭的待遇实在不算那么坏。成了右派后，工资只是从原来的 80 元只降了 20 元。他现在月薪 120 元，有一个三居的宿舍。

他问我是否认识他哥哥于豪章。我确是听说过台湾国军总司令于豪章，由于直升机失事而成了伤残，因此断送了辉煌的前途。我不知道他们是兄弟。他很后悔没有跟哥哥 1949 年去台湾。

他又说起另一个南开的同学唐贤可也住在天津，我们试着给他打电话，却得知他去了美国。唐贤可也是右派，他姐姐和于豪刚的姐姐在南开同班，后来嫁给了秦基伟将军。显然，他和大将之间的关系也保不了他被划成右派。

于豪刚 90 年代退休，搬到北京跟着女儿住。有一年，我访问北京，住在友谊宾馆，他没打招呼就来找我，我刚好不在，于是没能再见面。不久以后，就听说他过世了。

我的很多同学都被划了右派。其中很多人能从过去的阴影中走出来，且能对当前和未来持有正面的生活态度。但也有些就用愤怒的斥责来发泄过去的怨屈。于豪刚只是忧伤、消沉，悔恨。面对他和想起他时，我只感到无助。。