

I entered Jin Zhong 金中(full name was The Middle School of the Jin Ling University 金陵大学附属中学),in early 1946. It was one of the better schools in Nanjing. But it was not comparable to Nankai. It was neither exciting nor challenging for me. The only thing I remember worth telling was that the English teacher Mr. Xu had an unusual way of teaching. He claimed to be a student of Lin Yutang 林语堂, and he said, “According to Master Lin, the only way to learn English is BEI 背(memorizing).” Every Monday there was a test, just ten sentences randomly form the text, with one word missing in each sentence. You need to fill the missing word. I think it was an effective way to learn English.

Quite a few Nankai classmates were also attending Jin Zhong. Among them was Ximen Ji Ye. We were in the same class for a year. Again he was on the top of the class.

I was fed up for the life in Jin Zhong. Three semesters was enough for me. Fortunately Zhong Da Fu Zhong 中大附中(ZDFZ) had come back to Nanjing in late 1946. So after graduating from the junior high school, I took and passed the entrance examination for ZDFZ, and enrolled in ZDFZ's senior high school in the fall of 1947.

The middle school attached to the National Central University was called Experimental Middle School of Central University 中大实中 ZDSZ before the war. It moved to Gueizhou after the war started. Since the Central University was in Chungking, the Ministry of Education set up the ZDFZ in Qing Mu Guan 青木关 where the ministry was located. But Central University was in Sha Ping Ba 沙坪坝. The University set up another smaller ZDFZ in Sha Ping Ba. The original ZDSZ in Guizhou was then renamed the National 14th Middle School.

After the war was over, all three schools moved back to Nanjing and combined to form the ZDFZ in Nanjing. It became one of the top high schools in China, and it attracted students from not only Nanjing but also neighboring provinces. It was very tough to pass the entrance examination. Almost all my about 200 classmates in the graduating class in Jin Zhong tried the entrance examination for ZDFZ. Only five passed. Ximen was of course one of them.

However, corruption was everywhere. ZDFZ, as a public school could not be an exception. About 120 students passed the entrance examination. They were divided into three classes: A,B for male students, and C for female students. But to accommodate the failed children of high officials and Central University professors, three more classes were added, D and F for males and E for females. There was also a most ridiculous episode. My friend Zhang Xiao Xiang, whose father was the Interior Minister, could not pass the entrance examination for the first year in senior high, but was admitted to second year in senior high. He lasted in ZDFZ for just a week, and returned to Jin Zhong.

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我 1946 年初就读金陵大学附属中学（金中），这是南京比较好的学校之一，只是赶不上南开。对我而言，这里既没有挑战性也无甚可道。唯一我能记得而又值得一提的是英文老师徐先生有一种特殊的授课方式，他自称林语堂的学生，并说：“林先生说，学英文只

有一个办法，背。”每周一必有考试，从课文中随便选 10 个句子，每句缺一个词，你得把这个缺的词填出来。我认为这确实是学英文的有效途径。

不少南开同学也在金中，其中包括西门纪业。我们有一年在同一个班，而他又是名列前茅。

我厌倦了金中的生活，三个学期已经难以忍受。好在 1946 年末中大附中回迁南京，因此初中毕业后，我参加并通过了中大附中的入学考试，1947 年秋入读中大附中高中。

战前国立中央大学附属的中学称为中大实中，战争开始后转移到贵州。因为中大在重庆，所以教育部在其部的所在地青木关建了中大附中；另一方面，由于中大校园在沙坪坝，因此，大学自己在沙坪坝也建了个小一点的中大附中。贵州的原中大实中则改名为国立十四中。

战后三间中学都回迁南京，合成一间中大附中。这是中国最顶尖的中学之一，招收的学生包括南京和邻近省份的。入学考试很难，金中毕业班我的同学大概 200 人参加，只有五位通过了考试。西门当然是其中之一。

但腐败无处不在，中大附中这样的公立学校也不可能例外。大约 120 名同学通过了入学考试，分成三个班，其中甲班和乙班为男生，丙班为女生。为了安置高官和中大教授子弟，又添了三个班，丁班和己班为男生，戊班为女生。我的朋友张孝祥，他爸爸是内政部长。他就没有考上高一，但却上了高二。他在中大附中只坚持了一周，又回到金中。